

THE AMERICAN LEGION

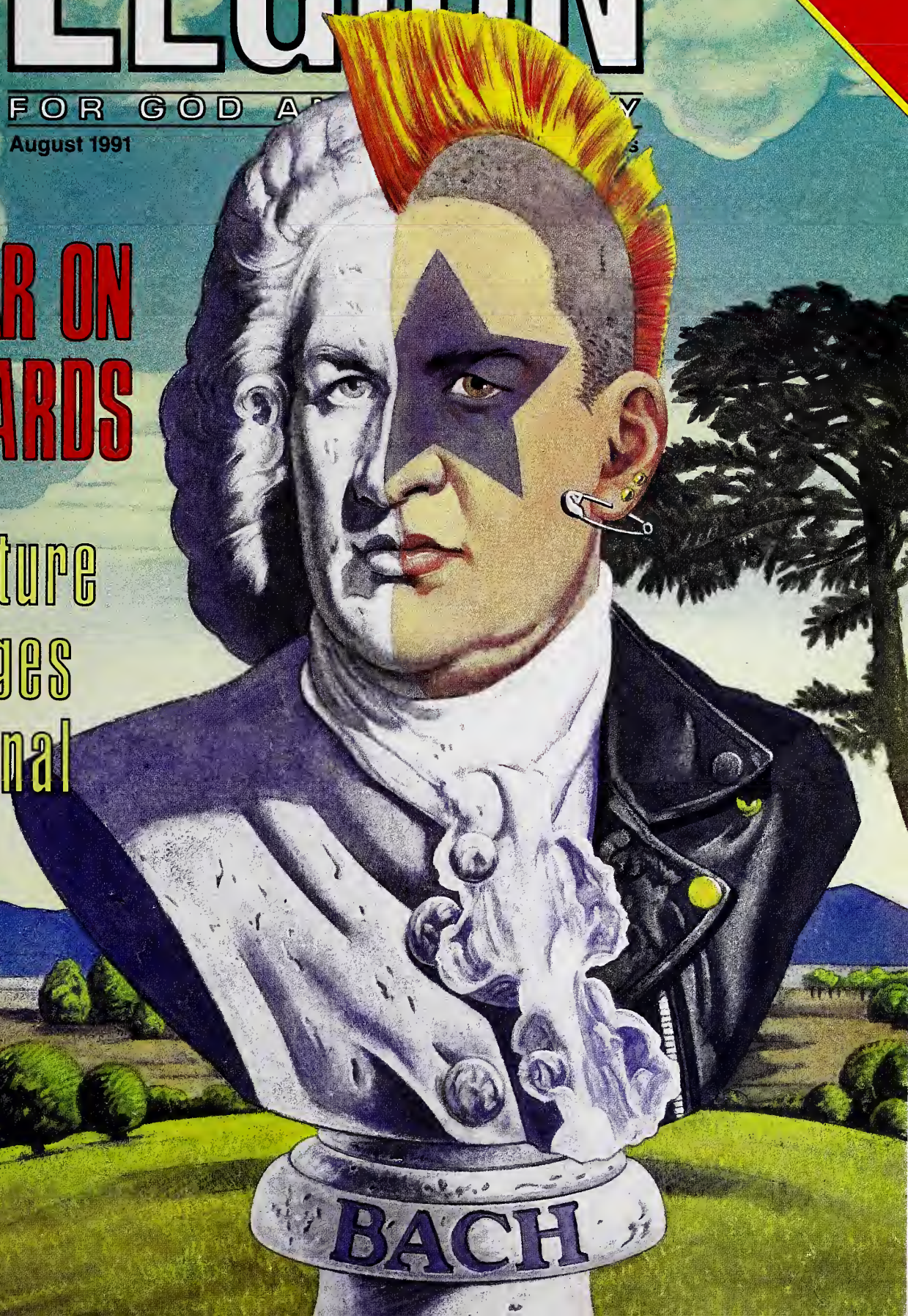
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

August 1991

1992
VA BUDGET
Page 18

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 131, No. 2

August 1991

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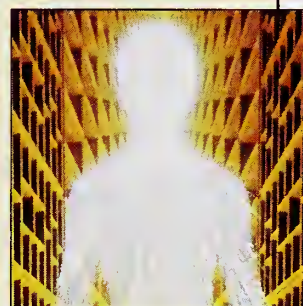
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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.

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National Headquarters & Editorial Offices

700 N. Pennsylvania St.
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-635-8411

National Commander

Robert S. Turner

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Daniel S. Wheeler

Managing Editor

Joe Stuteville

Associate Editor

Raymond H. Mahon

Assistant Editors

**Ken Scharnberg, David E. Nixon
T. Douglas Donaldson**

Art Director

Simon Smith

Art Assistant

Ann Reeder

Photojournalist

John E. Simon

Production Manager

William L. Poff

Administration

Kathy Ferrer, Joan L. Berzins

Advertising Director

Donald B. Thomson

Advertising Assistants

Diane Andretti, Robyn Black

The American Legion Magazine

P.O. Box 7068

Indianapolis, IN 46207

317-635-8411

Publisher's Representatives

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Chicago: 312-644-3888

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AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

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Thanks, Dad

This letter is written in response to your article "The Things They Left Behind" in the May 1991 issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. In 1988, I was asked by my high school English teacher to write an essay about the Vietnam War.

My first step in research was to ask my father, a Vietnam veteran, about his experiences in Vietnam. That turned out to be a bad idea. All I got in response was a blank stare and a few tears. So I left that alone.

Several days later, I received a surprise. When I got home from school one day, I found a box on my bed with a note. The note said:

Use this if you need to.

*Love,
Dad*

I was astonished when I opened the box.

Before I ever saw the contents of the box, I thought my father was an engineer in Vietnam. I was wrong. He had been an infantryman.

In the box I found pictures smeared with a brown, dried liquid, which I later learned was blood, as well as a Bronze Star, a U.S. Air Medal and a Combat Infantryman's badge.

After looking through the contents, I realized I had never asked, "What did you do in the war, Dad?" And I somehow felt ashamed about it. After several days of trying to find a title for my essay, I realized maybe that question was the title I needed. So I used it.

During the time I did my research, I made dozens of trips to the Vietnam Memorial. And each time I cried.

The evening before my essay was due, I spent several hours just looking at The Wall, and at about 11 p.m., when there were only a few people there, I sat down and read my essay to the names on The Wall.

In the end, my essay received an A—but what made me feel good is the day I brought it home for my father to read. When he finished he was crying. He turned to me and hugged me and told me he loved me, and then left the room.

I can never really understand why he cried, and I do not think America will ever understand the tears of veterans who still suffer.

The next day I left my essay at the base of the memorial, with a note attached saying:

*For God and Country
You gave your lives.
This is what I give
To you, from my heart.
And with a prayer for
Peace on Earth.*

*Thank you,
Tim Holt*

If I am ever asked to give my life in order to protect America or its policies, I would do so willingly, accepting no honors but one—that I be remembered in the same way as those who have done the same before me.

*Tim Holt
Temple Hills, Md.*

VETVOICE

Hundreds of Legionnaires have called 1-900-28-VOICE to share their opinions, vote on current issues and possibly have their comments published in THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. Considering the cost of a 29-cent stamp, paper, envelopes, other stationery and the time required to write, a letter is a cumbersome and slow way to send an opinion. Many readers wanted a quicker way to express themselves. Now, if you want to voice an opinion immediately, call 1-900-28-VOICE. The Vetvoice line also allows more readers to share opinions. The magazine is limited to publishing about 15 letters per issue, but each month on the Vetvoice line, there's room for thousands of opinions. Some of those opinions are published in the Vetvoice department of the magazine and indicated with a V symbol.

*If you want your opinion heard, call 1-900-28-VOICE. Calls cost \$1 per minute and proceeds support Legion programs. This month, you can vote on the questions **Do you believe the new standards accurately reflect life today?** see page 20, and **Should U.S. financial aid to foreign countries be reduced?** see page 64.*

1-900-28-VOICE

Work Required

I definitely believe people on welfare should be required to work. Why should the working class support people who sit around on their dead butts and do nothing?

V Mary Nale
Lubbock, Texas

People who are on welfare should work. Why should people be paid for nothing? Too many times the working class people of this country have been called on to help those who won't help themselves. It's quite evident that many of those who don't work can work.

V Glen Wolford
Gardeners, Pa.

No Copayment

I'm calling about this new copayment of \$2 for every prescription from VA pharmacies. A lot of guys can't afford to pay that \$2. At the present time, I can, but in the future, who knows how much it will be? We should start getting petitions to our congressmen.

V Don Tanner
McCook Lake, S.D.

Vets' Voices

As a WWII veteran, I use VA hospitals in Omaha, Neb., and Denver, Colo. I could not have asked for better care. Of course, there was an exception once in a while. I have been in VA hospitals 171 days since May 1986. The medical staff has my fibrosis of the lungs in remission, and I've had open-heart surgery in a VA facility.

But our care is gradually being taken away. There are wings of hospitals and complete floors not being used because of lack of staff. The lack of staff comes from lower wages and longer hours. I hope they start giving veterans the kind of care we deserve.

Charles D. Richards
North Platte, Neb.

For the past six years, I've been a patient at a VA hospital in San Francisco. I've had appointments cancelled for tests that I badly needed. I have as many as three appointments a week.

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and the hospital is always crowded. You can count on waiting one to two hours. I know they couldn't handle any excess casualties in the event of war. Six years ago there were twice as many beds as there are now.

▼ *Don Madill*
San Francisco

It's very clear we do not have fair and equal, compassionate health care for all veterans. The closest VA hospital to me is in Cheyenne, Wyo., 360 miles away. For specialized care, I have to go to Denver, Colo. While in the Denver facility, I met veterans from Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. I doubt the VA hospital in Denver is large enough to take care of Denver-area veterans, let alone those from half a dozen other states.

Arden Coad
Dubois, Wyo.

I believe VA is ill-prepared in case of another war to treat casualties. The VA hospital near me has cut its beds from 313 in 1986 to 202 now. There's just not enough beds available.

▼ *Craig Close*
Pawtucket, R.I.

I'm calling about the new service-connected disability rating for hearing-impaired veterans. I believe the VA's new criteria for rating that disability should be listed as a veterans-come-last dirty trick.

▼ *Al Norris*
Marble, N.C.

Fuelish

I don't believe Congress should raise the fuel efficiency standards (May, Big Issues). The cars they are making now are not safe, and I will not buy one of those cars. I think it is worth the loss in mileage to enhance my chances of surviving an accident. More people get killed by these small cars. I believe the auto manufacturers should continue making big cars and provide safety to drivers until an alternative to gasoline can be found.

▼ *William Ellison*
Sierra Vista, Ariz.

In Big Issues in May, Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr. of Michigan gave reasons for

opposing increased auto fuel efficiency standards that were blatantly pro-manufacturer and anti-consumer. He refers to a 1990 bill requiring a 40 percent increase in fuel economy by 2001 as an attempt to stampede legislators into passing quick-fix laws. That's an average of only 4 percent a year. He also advocates larger, more expensive autos with the justification that such vehicles are what American consumers want. He cites 1979 safety statistics as proof that larger cars are safer than 1979 Nissans and Toyotas. So what? The point is not extraneous safety statistics or size versus imported cars; the point is fuel economy, consumer cost, and the environment.

Joseph A. Sullivan
South Euclid, Ohio

I wholeheartedly disagree with Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr. Money talks, and what the big money oil companies spend for lobbying in Washington is an example. Most people don't know that imported automobiles give far less gas mileage than do the same cars in the country that manufactures them. The powerful oil company lobbies have made the policy of Congress not to allow imported automobiles that give more gas mileage.

William A. Wolf
Ocean City, Md.

Pledge Defined

As I read "Pause for the Pledge" (May), I was reminded of a short item I had written in 1985 about the pledge. I dug through the files and found it and thought it might strike a chord in some. I would like to define for you the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

I pledge allegiance (*fidelity to the government*)

To the Flag (*a piece of cloth or bunting bearing devices and color to designate a nation*)

Of the United States of America and to the republic (*a state in which the sovereignty resides in the people and the legislative and administrative powers are lodged in officers elected by them*)

For which it stands. One nation (*a body of persons associated with a particular*

territory, organized under a government, and possessing a distinctive cultural and social way of life)

Under God. With liberty (*freedom from oppression, tyranny, or the domination of a government not freely chosen; freedom of thought or action, or exemption from forms of compulsion or indignity, regard as a human right*)

And justice (*the rendering of what is due or merited*)

For all (*the entire substance or extent of: All of the United States*).

R.W. "Dutch" Holland
Show Low, Ariz.

Homeward Bound

I'm still sitting here in Saudi Arabia, waiting for my turn to rotate once again back home as a veteran of another war. I spend some of my leisure time reading articles about the celebrations received by the troops returning from the Persian Gulf.

Being a Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam and Cambodia, just like my brother before me, I find it exciting to know our country has opened her eyes to the meaning and purpose of the Armed Forces of America. Today we return home as a unit from the Persian Gulf. Most units never returned as a group from Vietnam, only the surviving members of the groups who were lucky enough to make it home. But where were the open arms, hugs and kisses we see now, and why was there so very few to say "welcome home"?

Maybe today's young generation are the children of the early Vietnam veterans, and they want the troops to return home with pride and be proud to know that they did the right thing by serving in the Gulf War. Whatever the reason may be, I am happy to know that when I return home this time, my wife and son will be waiting for me, and the whole world will be saying "welcome home."

Let this be a tradition that will be carried on forever, and never again will anyone turn their backs on the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces for serving their country in any conflict.

Staff Sgt. Chip Sours
U.S. Army Reserves
351st Ord. Co.
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SAVIORS OF THEIR COUNTRY WHEN THE GUNS BEGIN TO SHOOT

"...For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out, the brute!' But it's 'Saviour of 'is Country when the guns begin to shoot..."

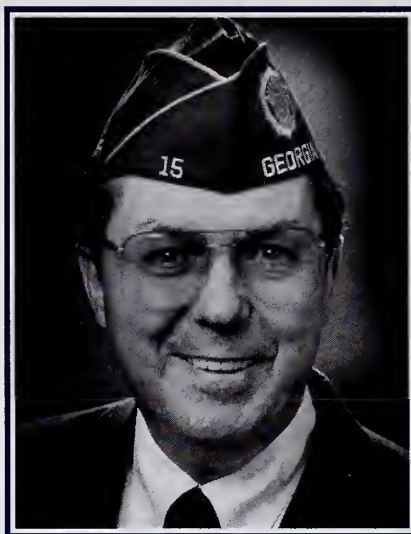
"Tommy" by Rudyard Kipling

RUDYARD Kipling knew a thing or two about human behavior, especially in how differently a nation treats its defenders in times of war and of peace. He knew that soldiers are praised when they answer the call of distant war thunder—and he knew that soldiers and their needs are forgotten after the storm has passed.

As America distances itself from the Persian Gulf War, appreciation of the valuable service performed by our ground troops, air warriors and naval units becomes more distant, too. That's nothing unusual. The appreciation for Minutemen and colonial soldiers rapidly waned when they returned from the War of Independence. And it began to happen as our troops headed for home from Kuwait City and Saudi Arabia last March.

Already, we're hearing grumblings on Capitol Hill about The American Legion-drafted Desert Storm Service-person's Act of 1991, the legislation that would increase educational aid to veterans who served during that era, from the current level of \$350 per month to \$777.

Some say the bill will cost too much and will scuttle plans to help slash the national deficit. Some bellow that because Desert Storm veterans were an all-volunteer force, they were aware of the chances of being mobilized for war, and, therefore, should not be eligible for any benefits greater than what was available when they enlisted. I can't help but wonder if such complaints mask another message:



Nat'l Cmdr. Robert S. Turner

"... For it's Tommy this an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out, the brute!' But it's 'Saviour of 'is Country when the guns begin to shoot..."

When the smoke clears from legislative firefights, we're confident Desert Storm veterans will receive fair benefits. It may not happen next week, next month or even next year. But it will happen. The American Legion doesn't begin any task it will not see through to completion.

While Legionnaires will stay focused in the struggle for a new Desert Storm G.I. Bill, we cannot ignore other nagging problems that need solutions. At this writing, thousands of veterans are watching the doors to VA medical facilities slammed in their faces

because of funding shortfalls in the VA budget. The lack of vision in funding veterans' health-care programs will send many needy veterans to other public sources—if they seek help at all for their problems. That's why the Legion submitted a VA budget proposal to Congress this year.

Although we've shared common challenges during the past year, we've also had common victories. Not long after our first troops were sent to the Persian Gulf, it became clear to all of us that the families they left behind needed help, and that's why we established the Family Support Network of The American Legion, which has responded to more than 33,000 calls for help, ranging from requests for emergency cash aid to providing moral support.

We continue to walk the road together in our goal to gain a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag from political pyromaniacs and those who believe our national banner is merely fabric and thread. Several state legislatures have adopted memorializing resolutions that would compel Congress to reconsider the amendment.

I'm thankful for all of the assistance so many have given me during my watch. The Department Commanders have been most cooperative; the District and Post Commanders, most hospitable; the National Staff, most loyal; and the rank-and-file bluecapper, most supportive. Your counsel has been wise and your friendship has been warm.

We've traveled a long road together in the past year, but it's a journey without end. The pride in what we do for others was evident in every community I have visited. That pride has been the source of our strength and the same that guided American Legion founders 73 years ago in Paris. We've succeeded where others have fallen short or given up. Why?

We've had America on our minds. ☐



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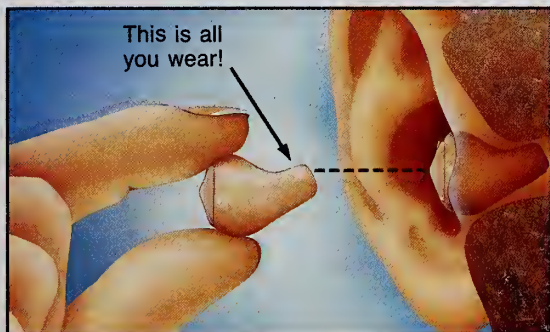
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SHOULD CONGRESS PASS THE BRADY HANDGUN BILL?

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii

In Atlanta, a man walked out of a mental institution and into a pawn shop where he easily purchased a "Saturday Night Special" handgun. The next day, he entered a shopping mall's food court at lunchtime and opened fire, killing one man and wounding four others. The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act will prevent these purchases. The Brady Bill establishes a simple seven-day waiting period for those who wish to buy a handgun.

YES



This bill alone won't drastically alter the unbelievable number of Americans murdered with handguns each year—9,013 people in 1989—but it will save lives. Police officers know this and that's why the 217,000 members of The Fraternal Order of Police favor the Brady Bill. The organization issued this statement: "If the seven-day waiting period will save just one life, the life of a law enforcement officer or the life of a citizen, then (Congress') work will be successful."

Despite the simplicity and common sense of the Brady Bill, it does not enjoy universal appeal. The National Rifle Association (NRA) fought the legislation before it recently passed the House of Representatives. The NRA sees the bill as an erosion of our Second Amendment right to bear arms, and a possible first step to the confiscation of guns, even those belonging to law-abiding citizens.

It's true that some gun opponents would favor an all-out gun ban. I would vote against that, and I cannot foresee Congress passing such a law. We must not undermine the right of law-abiding citizens to own a gun. At the same time, this does not mean we should be able to buy a handgun almost as easily as we buy a hamburger or soft drink.

In the House, the NRA supported replacing the Brady Bill with an alternative known as the Staggers Amendment. This measure, drafted by Rep. Harley Staggers of West Virginia, would have allowed immediate handgun purchases, but required the buyer undergo an instant, computerized criminal records check. Unfortunately, many states do not have criminal records on computer yet, and it will be years before they do. Given time, computerized criminal record checks also could save lives, so we should keep that concept alive. But for today, we should pass the Brady Bill. ☐

Sen. Steve Symms, R-Idaho



NO

The debate on gun control is heating up again. You've been hearing politicians resurrecting the same tired arguments to force law-abiding citizens to wait seven days before they can purchase a handgun. Common sense tells me that forcing a person to wait seven days to purchase a firearm will do no good in curbing violent crime.

lent crime.

Anyone who believes that a criminal will go to the local gun store, fill out an application, sign a statement that he or she is not a felon, then wait for seven days while police use scarce financial and manpower resources to perform federally mandated background checks must also believe in the tooth fairy. It will be law-abiding citizens who will fill out the application, wait the seven days and subject themselves to the police checks, while the common criminal goes into the alley or to the black market to obtain his weapon of choice.

When California increased its state-mandated waiting period from two to 15 days, the state's homicide rate rose 125 percent. In the 10 states which have imposed a waiting period, there has been no corresponding decrease in violent crime during the last two decades.

A more practical problem with the bill is the inability of the police to conduct an accurate background check. There are 11 states which do not have automated criminal records, and 10 others have less than 65 percent of their records on computer. The U.S. Attorney General conducted a study on ways to identify felons who attempt to purchase firearms from dealers. According to the report, "records of 40 percent to 60 percent or more of felony convictions are not currently available in automated form."

More important than data availability is data quality. The same Attorney General's report states, "Approximately 50 percent of the cases where persons appear to have a criminal history record based on initial name search are eventually found to be false hits." As the level of rhetoric increases, it is important to remember one basic fact: Guns don't kill, people do.

I, for one, will continue fighting for stronger penalties aimed at criminals and will resist any and all attempts to penalize honest, law-abiding citizens by restricting their constitutional right to bear arms. ☐

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Let's Pack In The PACs

By Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr.

AT ONE time or another you have probably said, "Why in the world would that provision be in the tax code? It isn't logical." Oh, but it is logical, quite logical to the lobbyist who made the Political Action Committee (PAC) contribution and pulled the string to form the loophole.

How much does one toilet seat cost when purchased at your local retailer? Six bucks? How come the Pentagon paid \$600 each when it was buying great numbers of the same item at what one might suppose would be wholesale? If you are looking for an answer, you might take a long look at the PACs that lobbyists for special interests use to "sweeten the judgments" of public officials.

A lobbyist recently sent a handsome PAC contribution for my congressional campaign. With the check came a letter that included this claim:

"PACs allow over 4.5 million people to be involved in our nation's electoral process. And we hope you will work to preserve that right."

When I returned the check, I wrote the following:

"The Constitution allows those 4.5 million people to be involved in our nation's electoral process. PACs have nothing to do with it. The Constitution allows each of those people to choose and contribute to his or her own

'Who pays the fiddler calls the tune.' When PACs finance the campaign fiddler you can bet there are going to be strings attached.

.....

candidates as distinguished from the candidates chosen by PACs. It's a nice arrangement. It's called freedom."

One hears it said that a legislator can accept campaign money from lobbyists and not be influenced. My answer is, given the trickery of one's own subconscious mind, how could the public or even the legislator know whether influence has been put into play? The answer to that question is easy. One can be sure that a PAC contribution does not influence a legislator only if the legislator does not accept the PAC contribution.

Does this mean I think lobbyists and the politicians who take campaign contributions from the lobbyists are not nice people or that they are always wrong? Not at all. It simply means I

think their relationship should be on the basis of ideas reasonably put forth and unsweetened by money.

Some say that without lobbyists' money, congressional campaigns would not be sufficiently financed and challengers would be disadvantaged. My father says the difference between a \$50,000 congressional campaign and a \$500,000 campaign is that in the latter case "they'll find some way to waste \$450,000." A big spender in a campaign is likely to be a big spender in Congress if elected.

Lobby money, by the way, obviously is not doled out on the civic basis of equal opportunity for challengers and incumbents. The money goes to those incumbent and non-incumbent candidates the donor believes will be most likely to do what the lobbyists want them to do.

"Who pays the fiddler calls the tune." When PACs finance the campaign fiddler you can bet there are going to be strings attached. □



Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr. of Indiana represents the 10th District and does not accept PAC contributions.

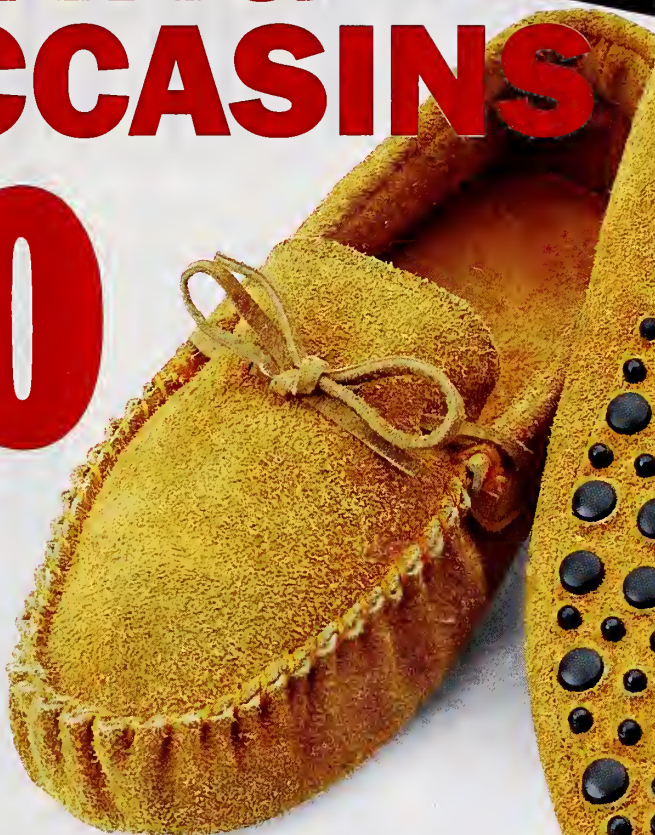
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LEGION GRADE CARD

THE phrase, "You ain't heard the half of it," may be poor grammar but it aptly describes the annual Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs), which measure the 3.1 million Legionnaires' contributions to their communities.

During the 1989-90 reporting period, 55 percent of American Legion Posts submitted Consolidated Post Reports to National Headquarters in Indianapolis. "In practical terms, the failure to report all the good things Legionnaires are doing for their fellow veterans, the needy and American youth does not diminish those contributions," said Bruce Thiesen, chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee. It does, however, detract from the effectiveness of Legion officials who rely upon statistics provided in CPRs to promote the Legion's work in a dozen endeavors, from veterans' rehabilitation to Americanism programs.

"I think if more Post Commanders knew how important the information contained in the CPRs is to The American Legion, then we'd have a response rate in the 90 percent range," said Herman G. Harrington, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission. "They really show how involved Legionnaires are in their communities."

Information contained in the CPR is cited by Legion officials when they testify before various congressional committees and subcommittees in support of programs that benefit from the Legion's support. At press time, the latest figures were still coming in to National Headquarters and will be available in time for the 73rd National Convention in Phoenix. Consolidated Post Reports also keep Legion Posts up to date about what's being accomplished by fellow Legionnaires, which can set a strong example for Legionnaires to follow in their own communities.

Without such reports, Legionnaires and the public would not learn such

Consolidated Post Reports document the thousands of volunteer hours Legionnaires work in their communities nationwide.



GIFT OF LIFE—Legionnaires donated 119,000 pints of blood as the largest U.S. blood donor organization.

interesting facts as:

- Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion donated more than 1.4 million volunteer hours in caring for and comforting sick and disabled veterans in VA facilities. The Legion family also donated \$2.2 million to veterans.
- About 48,000 veterans received Legion assistance in job placement or training.
- Legionnaires donated more than 119,000 pints of blood. Red Cross officials credit The American Legion with being the largest single blood donor organization in the United States.
- Sponsored more than 19,000 stu-

dents at Boys State conventions nationwide, culminating in Boys Nation, a national gathering of tomorrow's leaders at Washington, D.C. More than \$2.8 million was spent for Boys State and Boys Nation programs in 1990.

- Made contributions to the United Fund, Red Cross, handicapped children and other financial aid of more than \$10 million. Legionnaires donated more than \$6.5 million to needy children in cash, goods, gifts and services.

- Sponsored in excess of 2,600 athletic teams, including 1,552 American Legion Baseball teams, at a cost of \$11.1 million.

- Last year Legion Posts spent \$1.6 million sponsoring Boy Scout units. Some of those scouts qualified for a portion of the nearly \$3 million in academic scholarships Posts sponsored in 1989-90.

- Community service projects cost Legion Posts more than \$6.9 million, with members donating 2.6 million hours of volunteer time in accomplishing community goals.

- Awarded 9,227 Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) medals. In the area of crime prevention, 1,239 Posts sponsored programs, and another 1,300 Posts sponsored fire prevention workshops.

- Spent more than \$320,000 to allow 6,300 youths to compete in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

- A new addition to the CPR this year is the line for listing Post donations to the National Emergency Fund, which at press time stood at more than one half million dollars. Another new category, the number of schools assisted by a Legion Post, numbered more than 10,000 schools in the first year. The Legion's \$1.1 million in donations to education programs, and the nearly \$3 million contributed to scholarships renews a belief in our nation's youth.

The sum of these contributions represent an unrivaled record of service to the nation's veterans, youths and the

Please turn to page 59

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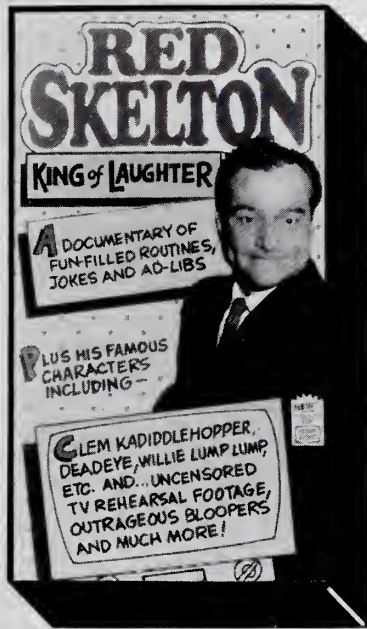
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BULLET-BITING BUDGET AGAIN

To save money, VA has implemented several benefit restrictions, but low income veterans will suffer most.



SEE-THROUGH BUDGET—Because of inadequate VA funding, hospital beds are being closed and personnel lost to attrition are not replaced.

WHOEVER originated the saying, "figures don't lie," obviously never balanced a checkbook or scanned the bottom line of the VA's budget appropriations for fiscal year 1992.

On paper, the administration's budget recommendations to fund VA medical care for the next fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 show a \$1 billion increase in funding from the previous year, to a proposed \$13.3 billion from the \$12.3 billion Congress appropriated in FY 1991.

Under a Legion-proposed budget plan unveiled by National Commander Robert S. Turner last spring, spending

for medical care in FY 1992 would reach \$14.3 billion, not a cure-all to chronic under-budgeting which has afflicted VA for years but a realistic goal to restore hard-won benefits. The National Commander pointed to inadequate funding as the reason behind tightening restrictions in veterans health-care eligibility, particularly during the past two years, resulting in the VA system's inability to provide health care to those who need it most.

"It is ironic that as a grateful nation welcomes home its newest generation of veterans from a successful campaign in the Persian Gulf, previous generations of American veterans struggle against a tide of ever-tightening regulations which restrict access to VA health care," Turner said. "As I told Congress

in testimony last September, low-income veterans suffer most from these new restrictions because they are not poor enough to receive hospital care and medicine from VA, yet cannot afford to pay their own health-care expenses."

The American Legion has proposed a FY 1992 budget for VA that attempts to recognize fiscal realities on Capitol Hill while it provides adequate funding for VA programs. The Legion's proposed FY 1992 spending plan would restore some programs and benefits lost to the budget ax in recent years. Chronic staffing problems in VA facilities also are addressed in the Legion proposal. Congress recently took a step in bolstering VA's ability to compete for quality personnel by passing into law H.R. 598, which authorizes special pay rates for VA health-care professionals, particularly doctors and dentists, who work in areas in which federal salaries are not competitive with private sector pay.

Because of shortfalls in medical-care funding, hospital beds are being closed and personnel lost to attrition are not being replaced. The so-called "cost-saving" measures quietly enacted under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 only delay the costs for veterans medical care while continuing the phase-out of VA care for non-service connected veterans, and increasingly, veterans suffering health problems from service-connected ailments (see "Deadly Care," THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, July 1991). One of the most sweeping changes in the new law eliminates veteran Categories A, B and C, opting instead to define levels of care by *mandatory* and *discretionary* categories. The mandatory category, the former Category A veteran, receives first call on VA hospital beds and all treatment services under a complex and often contradictory set of criteria. The discretionary category, encompassing the former Category B and C veterans, stands to take the biggest hit as care for non-service connected veterans continues its slide to extinction in the VA system.

"There is a current veteran population who will be unable to obtain VA health-care services because of inadequate funding, who have insufficient family support systems and little or no health insurance coverage. It is these veterans who, in the past, have relied on the VA health-care delivery system as a last safety net," said Frank

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C. Buxton, deputy director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

For FY 1992, the Bush Administration requests that Congress spend \$33.2 billion to operate VA. The request includes \$16.9 billion for benefit programs; \$13.3 billion for medical care; \$646 million for major and minor construction; and \$847 million for general operating expenses that includes \$57.3 million for the National Cemetery System. The final congressional appropriations for the coming fiscal year were not available at press time, but the following compares the administration's request with the comprehensive program The American Legion favors:

- In testimony before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee on May 17, Buxton predicted the spend-down provisions of the 1990 omnibus act will run contrary to VA's mission to provide health care to veterans according to fair, consistent eligibility guidelines. "We have witnessed countless veterans seeking VA health-care services only to be told they no longer qualify. We see a continuing decline in the workload totals throughout the system. This decline does not reflect a reduction in veterans' health-care demands, but instead reflects the barriers to access raised by a lack of adequate funding," Buxton told lawmakers.

The decade of the 1980s was a fiscal disaster for the ranks of America's aging veteran population. On paper, the level of appropriated dollars for medical care during the decade rose \$6.5 billion, to \$12.3 billion in FY 1991 from \$5.8 billion in FY 1980. In constant dollars, adjusted for inflation,

funding increased 10.3 percent, just \$600 million, or less than 1 percent per year during a decade the medical consumer price index (CPI) soared to double-digits. Legion proposal for FY 1992: \$14.3 billion.

- The largest single outlay in the VA budget is administered through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), which operates 59 regional VA offices nationwide, in Puerto Rico and the Philippines. The decline in beneficiaries during the past three years is expected to be offset by the increase of active duty personnel prompted by the Gulf War, and the war eventually will increase the numbers of active duty, Reserve and National Guard troops eligible for disability compensation. To keep pace, The American Legion proposes an increase in the VBA staff of 725 employees. The extra staff should enable VBA to speed processing of claims and reduce error rates. Legion proposal for FY 1992: \$17 billion.

- Funding for construction must be adequate to renovate and modernize existing facilities. The Legion applauds plans by VA officials to update existing facilities rather than embark upon major new construction projects during the next several years. The administration proposes \$450 million for major construction in the coming year, but because of a preponderance of aging facilities in the VA system, annual spending for major construction should be at least \$600 million to maintain and modernize facilities. The need for such funding levels is supported by the fact that 113 out of 151 VA general hospitals are at least 29 years old; and just one VA

psychiatric hospital out of 21 in the system has been built in the past 29 years. Legion proposal for FY 1992: \$796 million (\$600 million for major construction, \$196 million for minor construction).

- The American Legion urges VA officials to develop a plan to deal with the expected increase in veterans burials as the World War II generation passes away. Thirty of VA's 65 open national cemeteries are scheduled to close during the next 20 years while peak burial years approach for WWII veterans. According to the government, annual burials are slated to increase to 115,000 by the year 2010, nearly a two-fold increase over current figures. The administration's \$57.3 million budget request is inadequate to conduct necessary environmental impact studies in a half dozen urban areas not adequately served by the National Cemetery System. Legion proposal for FY 1992: \$70 million. During recent hearings on Capitol Hill, congressmen viewed photographs of the Riverside, Calif., National Cemetery depicting sunken graves and neglected, battered headstones.

The Legion will continue its fight to restore the headstone, plot and burial benefits to eligible veterans reduced by Congress last year.

The litany of battles to be fought so hard-won benefits can be reinstituted continues on many fronts. Too many veterans who suffer health problems and have no other recourse but VA are being told they are no longer entitled to treatment. New skirmishes erupt daily, like the latest effort to eliminate a mandated \$2 copayment for prescriptions filled at VA facilities. The paperwork costs to generate an invoice for every prescription would consume most of the financial benefit to VA while this long-run-for-a-short-slide approach would severely hurt many veterans whose only source of medical care and medication is VA.

The Legion will be watching next month for the scheduled release of the final report by the Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans Health Care, appointed in 1990 by VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski. The commission will recommend a plan to ensure VA delivers quality, cost-efficient health care to eligible veterans on an equal basis. To that end, The American Legion will continue pushing for adequate funds so VA can deliver on its promise to America's veterans. □

AMERICAN LEGION BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

	LEGION FY 1992	GOVERNMENT PROPOSED FY 1992
MEDICAL CARE	\$14.3 billion	\$13.3 billion
CONSTRUCTION		
MAJOR	\$600 million	\$450 million
MINOR	\$196 million	\$196 million
MEDICAL/PROSTHETIC RESEARCH	\$280 million	\$216.2 million
NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM	\$70 million	\$57.3 million
VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION	\$17.0 billion	\$16.9 billion
VETERANS STATE HOME PROGRAM	\$85 million	\$85 million

Ugliness has been enshrined as a new standard, as the ability to shock becomes a replacement for the ability to inspire.

EVERYWHERE around us, in every realm of artistic endeavor, we see evidence of the rejection of traditional standards of beauty and worth. In the visual arts, in literature, in film, in music of both popular and classical variety, ugliness has been enshrined as a new standard, as we accept the ability to shock as a replacement for the old ability to inspire.

In film, the art form which I most regularly consider, the process of degradation has already reached levels that should lead all thoughtful critics to despair for the future of the medium. Indescribable gore drenches the modern screen, even in movies allegedly made for families. And the most perverted forms of sexuality—loveless, decadent, brutal and sometimes incestuous—are showing regularly at a theater near you.

Perhaps you haven't seen *The Grifters*, a critical favorite of the last few months. Oscar winner Anjelica Huston co-stars with John Cusack in a story about the sexual tension between a mother-and-son team of con artists. In the climactic sequence, Huston attempts to seduce her boy in order to steal his money, but this heart-warming family reunion ends

Michael Medved is a co-host of the television show *Sneak Previews*.



ILLUSTRATION BY BILL CIGLIANO

THE WAR ON STANDARDS

By Michael Medved



MAN TO MAN—We've certainly come a long way from the *Andy Hardy* series with Mickey Rooney and Lewis Stone.

Roche wrote an eloquent and important book that highlighted the threat within our culture to those values of civility and faith that many of us hold most dear. The name of the book was *A World Without Heroes*. And that is precisely the sort of world that Hollywood portrays again and again on screen. It is a world in which ugliness and emptiness emerge as the new standard for our society.

The second front in this war against standards involves an attack on the family that seems to gather new force with every passing year. For thousands of years, society has acknowledged the fact that a permanent partnership between a man and a woman, for the purpose of nurturing children, offers the best chance of human happiness and fulfillment. This fundamental notion has not only been challenged in recent years, it has been assaulted with unparalleled ferocity by some of the most powerful forces in our culture.

The popular music business, for instance, has become a global enterprise of staggering proportions that generates billions of dollars every year through the simple-minded glorification of animal lust.

Once upon a time, parents worried about the impact of idolized crooners like Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, or the Beatles, but these performers were

with blood spurting endlessly from his severed jugular vein.

This kind of work is regularly described as high art, along with another sort of ugliness that is even more commonly celebrated on movie screens today. Film after film centers on characters who are, fundamentally, despicable—amoral losers who give us nothing to admire, nor even to care about.

In years past, in the heyday of Gary Cooper, Jimmy Stewart and Katharine Hepburn, Hollywood was accused of creating characters who were larger than life, more deeply lovable and admirable than people in the real world. Today, the movie business regularly offers us characters who are smaller than life, who are less decent, less intelligent, less noble than our own friends and neighbors. Four years ago, George

BABY TALK—Even films that celebrate child rearing, such as *Look Who's Talking*, portray single people as parents.

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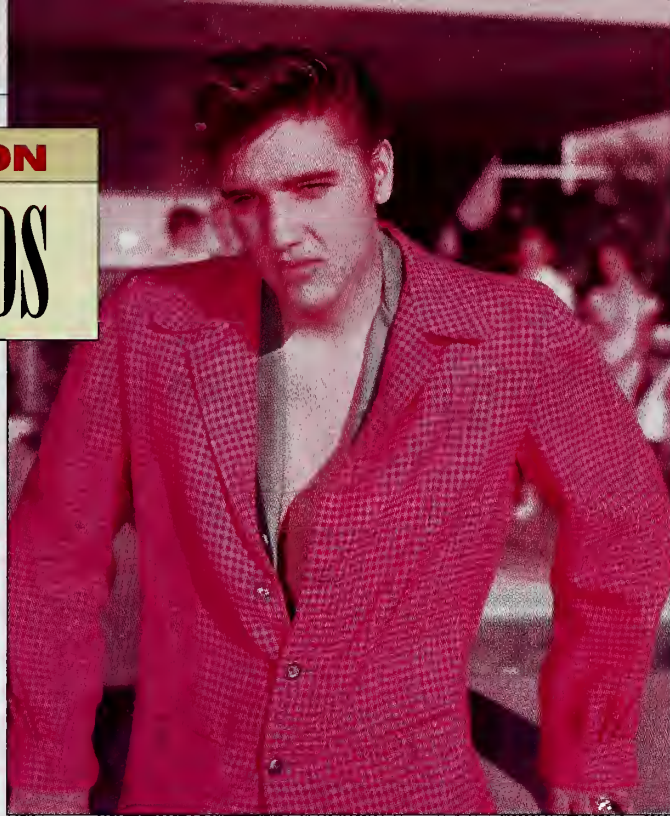
THE WAR ON STANDARDS

tender, wholesome romantics compared to today's music scene. The singers of yesterday certainly exploited sexuality as part of their appeal, but the fantasies they purveyed in their songs still centered on long-term emotional relationships between men and women. What is most striking about the popular music of the moment is the cold, bitter and sadistic edge to the vision of fleeting sex it promotes.

Another message of the music that is ceaselessly reinforced by television and movies is the perverse but pervasive idea that "kids know best." Teen-agers are regularly portrayed as the source of all wisdom, sanity and sensitivity, while their parents are shown as hopeless, benighted clowns. With Bart Simpson regularly turning up on all lists of the most admired Americans, we've certainly come a long way from the Andy Hardy model, with young Mickey Rooney learning life's lessons from his father, the stern but kindly judge. This new idea that children have all the answers, and have to show the older generation how to live and how to adjust to the brave new world around them, is a hold over from the destructive obsessions of the '60s youth culture, and it poisons the climate for family life.

According to the Census Bureau, two-thirds of all American adults are currently married, but movies today focus overwhelmingly on single people. If you want to test this premise, all you have to do is pick up a copy of any metropolitan newspaper and read the entertainment section to see what's playing at your local theaters. The number of films about single people will outnumber the films about married people by a ratio of five or six to one. And even those relatively rare films that do make an attempt to show life within a family will most

DRIVING SUCCESS—*The success of Driving Miss Daisy shows Americans want wholesome entertainment.*



ELVIS THE PELVIS—*Parents once worried about the influence of crooners such as Elvis, Frank Sinatra and The Beatles.*

in the course of a film, it invariably marks the conclusion of a romance, never the beginning nor the middle of the love relationship.

Even those films that seem to celebrate the joys of child-rearing display a contemptuous attitude toward marriage. A few years ago, Hollywood discovered that babies could serve as a major draw at the box office, and attempted to lure moviegoers with a series of diapers-and-formula fantasies. The three most successful of these films, *Three Men and a Baby*, *Look Who's Talking*,

and *Baby Boom*, featured single people in the parental roles. The underlying message could hardly be more clear: Infants may be cute and cuddly and desirable, but they are best enjoyed without the inconvenient entangle-

ment. Apparently, some stern decree has gone out from the upper reaches of the Hollywood establishment that love between married people must never be portrayed on screen. If a wedding occurs

often depict a marriage that is radically dysfunctional.

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WARNER BROS. INC.

DANGER

ON TAP

By Robert McGarvey

PEOPLE move to rural Arrowhead Villas in California for the quality of life nestled in the San Bernadino Mountains and nearby Lake Arrowhead. At the 5,000-foot elevation, the air is clean and crisp. So is the water drawn from deep wells. At least the water was, until the morning Cher Fish turned on her kitchen faucet and out poured gasoline.

Fish wasn't alone. Other residents, too, suddenly found foul water flowing from their spigots. When the cause was traced, it turned out the local water company had poisoned itself. Sited adjacent to the public wells was a pair of water-company-owned, underground steel tanks holding gasoline and diesel fuel. Estimated to be 40 years old, the underground tanks, over time, had sprung leaks and polluted the community's water supply.

Arrowhead Villas isn't alone. From Mahwah, N.J., where 60 percent of the water supply is threatened, to Fort Madison, Iowa, where the entire water supply was contaminated, communities large and small are grappling with the problems caused by leaking tanks.

"Leaking underground petroleum storage tanks are becoming the environmental issue," said Dwight Merriam, president of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a land-use attorney in Hartford, Conn.

"These tanks spell trouble with a

Robert McGarvey is a Los Angeles-based free-lance journalist.



EVEN MINOR
LEAKS MAY BE
CATASTROPHIC
IF VAPORS
BUILD UP IN
BASEMENTS AND
SEWERS, CAUSING
EXPLOSIONS.

capital T," added Long Island lawyer Cary David Kessler.

Lois Epstein, an underground tank specialist with the New York-based Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), explains the scope of the problem: "There are an estimated 5 million underground storage tanks across the country, and about one in every four is leaking. Even a minor leak can be catastrophic to the environment and, of course, there is also a substantial risk of explosions resulting from buildup of

vapors in basements and sewers. This is a problem ignored for many years. We cannot afford to ignore it any longer."

Ask the residents of East Setauket, Long Island, about that. They recently learned they are sitting on top of a 1 million gallon lake of gasoline which, in places, is as deep as seven feet. Or go to Brooklyn, N.Y., Greenpoint section, where there's a 17 million gallon underground petroleum lake—which is half again as big as the 11 million gallon *Exxon Valdez* spill in Alaska. That leak, too, is dwarfed by a petroleum ocean, estimated to be 250 million gallons, recently found under a Chevron refinery in El Segundo, Calif. Nobody, however, rules out discovery of still larger leaks. "There are many leaks that haven't been detected yet," Epstein said. "We're just beginning to inventory the extent of the damages."

The EPA's Helga Butler, planning chief for the Office of Underground Storage Tanks, tells the "why" behind this epidemic: "Most of the underground storage tanks were installed in the 1950s and '60s when everyone was heading out to suburbia." Builders and buyers alike preferred tanks to be hidden underground, rather than above ground where they were unattractive, used space and posed a fire hazard. Placed out of sight, many of the buried tanks were forgotten. But that was a mistake. Steel tanks have a useful life span of 20 to 30 years—after that, rust eats holes through the metal, which means "time has run out for many," Merriam said.

Nor can tank owners count on getting the maximum life out of their tanks, said Merriam. "Improper installation causes many tanks to develop leaks prematurely. Put a scratch in a steel



PHOTOS BY ROB CRANDALL/PICTURE GROUP

There are an estimated 5 million underground tanks nationwide, and one in every four is leaking. ▣

TANK TOP—Lois Epstein, an underground tank specialist with the New York-based Environmental Defense Fund, examines a tank.

tank and, before many years go by, you lose the tank to rust." Fiberglass tanks, which appeared on the market as an alternative around two decades ago, are rust-free but "installation is more critical still," said Merriam, adding that even a small rock in fill used as leveling can in time trigger stress fractures in a fiberglass tank.

As for why leaks can be catastrophic, the answer—as in Arrowhead Villas, Mahwah, and Fort Madison—is in the water we drink. Petroleum and its 300 component chemicals are linked with diseases ranging from cancer to anemia through skin and eye irritations. Mix petroleum products with ground water, which half the country's population depends upon for drinking water, and cleanup becomes critical, but also expensive. That's because many of petroleum's components are highly water soluble. Once in water, they keep

half cups of petroleum per hour can contaminate 1 million gallons of ground water in a day.

"Once water is polluted, the costs for cleanup can escalate very fast," said Epstein, who pegs the average cost per incident as high as \$100,000. Those expenditures come with no guarantee. "It's not like you can read in a cleanup cookbook how to make this go away," said William H. Spitz, an engineering geologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation assigned to the effort to sponge up the East Setauket leak, where costs have already eclipsed \$10 million, and the end isn't in sight. "There are very different principles from surface-water spill cleanups. Here we have a problem without being able to touch and see it."

Granted, the huge leaks such as in East Setauket and Greenpoint invariably are traced back to industrial

sources, but, most leak experts are worried about an altogether different source. "Big business is fairly well aware of the problem and is taking remedial actions," said Merriam. "Nowadays, with leaking underground tanks, as often as not, it is the homeowner who is the cause."

The explanation is that, as mandated by 1988 EPA regulations, owners of large commercial tanks found at gasoline stations and industrial complexes now are required to install leak detection systems and purchase cleanup insurance. That's a big step toward ensuring there won't be more East Setauket incidents, but "the regulations exempt more tanks than they cover," said Epstein, who points to regulatory exclusion of farm and home heating oil tanks in the millions. "A homeowner could have a small leak, during many years, and never know it. But even a tiny leak can be disastrous for drinking water. The EPA predicts that even with its regulations, 62,000 private and 4,700 public wells will be contaminated by petroleum products

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TO BEYOND AND BACK

By Vernon Pizer

IN MID-1988 while Sir Alfred Ayer, an Oxford professor stricken with pneumonia, was in the intensive care unit of University College Hospital in London, the screen on the monitor he was connected to registered an abrupt, steep drop in his heartbeat. As the medical team raced to his side, the recording flattened out, and he went into cardiac arrest.

Working swiftly, the doctors fought to restore Ayer's heartbeat. Four minutes after it had quit beating, the stalled organ began once again to pump blood. Later, when he had regained consciousness, Ayer told his doctors that during his four minutes of "death" he had undergone an eerie experience: He had been confronted by an exceedingly bright light. More than that, he declared that in some mysterious manner he had been made to realize that this penetrating light was responsible for the governance of the universe.

Prior to Ayer's strange brush with death, singer Della Reese accidentally walked through a glass door in her California home. Losing blood rapidly from several severed arteries, she was rushed to a hospital in a near-death condition. She later revealed that while the emergency room team was working feverishly to stave off her death, she had the sensation of floating free from her comatose body and of observing the scene from above the gurney on which she lay.

From time to time one of the supermarket tabloids runs a lurid account of a modern-day Lazarus who has

Vernon Pizer is a veteran journalist based in Valdosta, Ga., who frequently contributes to this magazine.

A Gallup Poll reports more than 8 million Americans have undergone near-death experiences, but scientists have yet to provide an adequate explanation.

miraculously risen from the dead. But, devoid of the purple prose and the hokum of the tabloids, articles have also appeared in serious journals describing the accounts of individuals who report undergoing remarkably strange experiences while on the verge of death. Researchers investigating the phenomenon term it an NDE, a near-death experience.

THE research is ongoing and findings thus far are incomplete and inconclusive, but what has become clear is that Ayer and Reese have plenty of company. A recent Gallup Poll indicated more than 8 million Americans report having undergone an NDE. How many outside of the United States put forth the same claim is unknown, but it is surely safe to assume that the number is huge.

The Gallup Poll is surprising not only because of its sheer weight of numbers, but also for the similarities in what occurred as described by those claiming to have undergone an NDE. Typically, they report that, like Reese, they floated free of their bodies and looked down on the scene from above while feeling sensations of peace and joy. For some, that was the extent of their NDE. However, many reported that after floating free of their bodies they glided through a tunnel toward a

radiant light from which emanated an aura of well-being and serenity. Often this joyous voyage included reunion with loved ones who had died.

What is going on? Could it be a kind of religious ecstasy as some skeptics claim? Ayer cultivates inhospitably arid ground in which religious fervor can take root. He is an avowed atheist. For all of his adult life he has adamantly opposed the notion of some form of life after death. Now, he concedes, he is not quite so certain that death is the end of everything.

Some skeptics theorize that NDEs are simply dreamlike hallucinations stimulated by the brain in response to physical trauma. These hallucinations, they believe, are colored and shaped by the individual's cultural conditioning and by previous events that claimed his attention. But that would not explain the near-death experiences reported by those too young to have been molded by cultural influences and previous events.

An Idaho pediatrician, Dr. Melvin Morse, became intrigued when a 7-year-old patient who had nearly drowned told him that while she was unconscious in the swimming pool she saw a light, and as she moved toward it, an angel-like figure appeared to guide her along the way. Seeking other youngsters with similar accounts to relate, Dr.



FLOATING
free of their
bodies, they were
confronted by
an exceedingly
bright light.

•••••

reported having a combination of both. What emerged as the most perplexing, most inexplicable aspect of many accounts is that some said they observed the scene from above after floating free of their bodies and were able to describe in detail the medical interventions the doctors employed on their unconscious bodies.

Investigators trying to unravel clues that could provide a key to unlocking the enigma of the near-death experience are frustrated when they probe for a common thread among those who have undergone an NDE. The source of their frustration is the inescapable fact that those who have had a near-death experience are as different from one another as all the hues of the color spectrum. The Gallup Poll made it clear that they differ by age, sex, education, race and ethnic heritage, religious belief or lack of it, cultural background, geography and the nature of the illness or trauma they sustained.

In groping for any kind of linkage, some investigators seize on the fact that so many NDEs involve passage through a tunnel toward a bright light, and they couple this experience with the obvious truth that everyone who has experienced an NDE also has experienced the process of being born. From this starting point, these theorists then postulate that in a near-death experience the mind somehow dredges a memory of the birth process, that the tunnel in the

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Morse ultimately found 50 who said they had undergone a near-death experience. One of the children was only four years old. Taking into account their youth, it seems improbable that the near-death experiences described by these children could in each instance have been shaped by cultural conditioning and prior events.

Morse is merely one of numerous physicians who have encountered the NDE phenomenon in the course of their practices. When one of Dr. Michael

Sabom's patients, resuscitated after suffering cardiac arrest, revealed to him that he had undergone an NDE during the period of the arrest, the cardiologist was nagged by the elusiveness of a credible, logical explanation for the occurrence. He began seeking other cardiac patients who reported undergoing similar experiences, eventually discovering 100. Some described having out-of-body experiences, some reported having mystical experiences involving lights and spirituality, and some

DO NOT CARROLL IMAGE BANK

MYTHS BEHIND

MILITARY SPENDING

Media stories
about cost
overruns
distort
the facts.

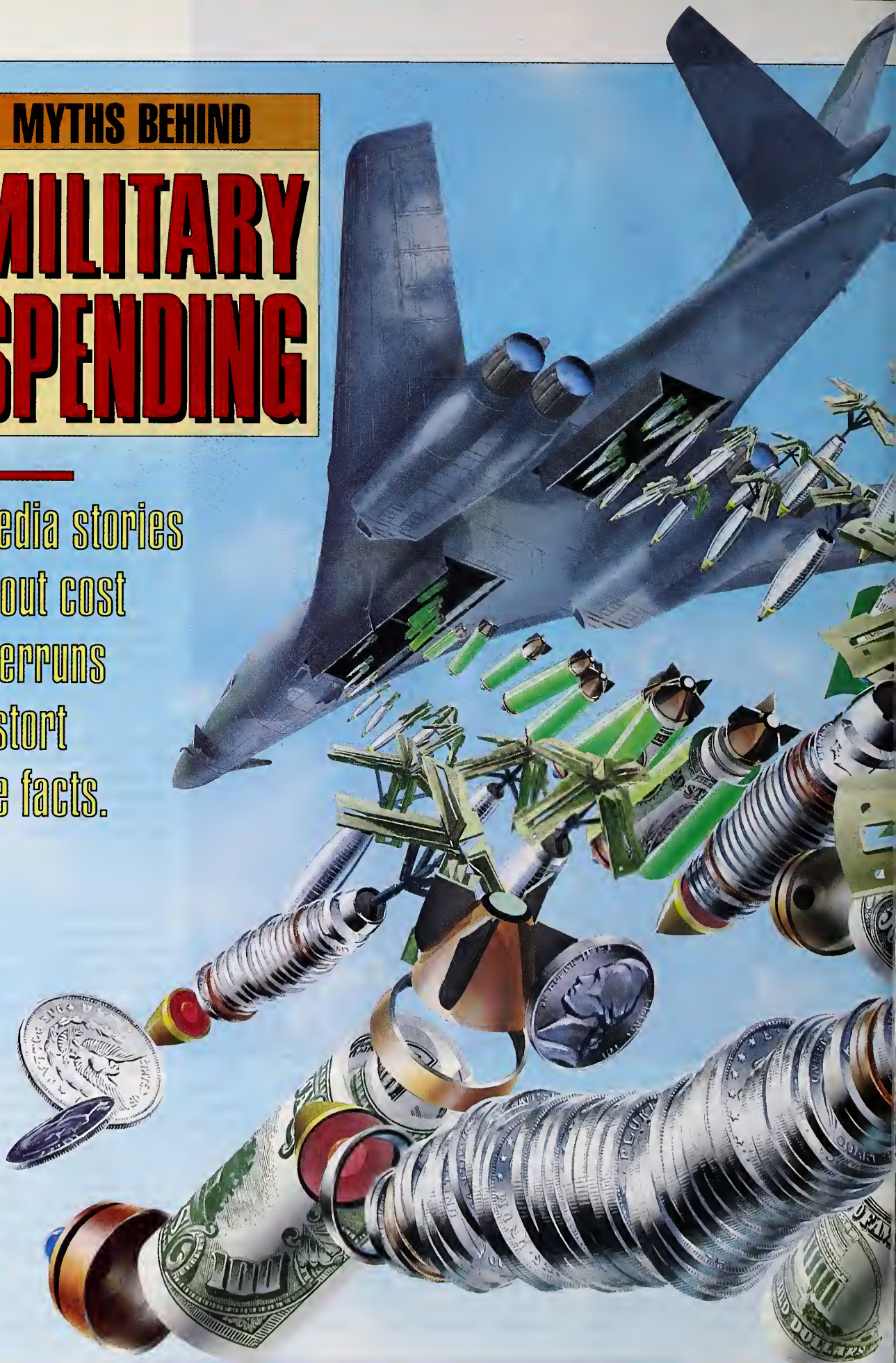


ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN MAGGARD

By M. Stanton Evans

AMONG its other history-making effects, Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf has laid to rest some long-standing myths about the U.S. military.

One of these is the notion that, "since the Cold War is over," we no longer need to worry about the state of our defenses, or commit substantial resources to them. Not far behind is the related concept that we have been spending too much on high-tech weapons, merely to appease the appetites of the Pentagon and the military yen for ever more expensive "toys."

Both these arguments look feeble in the light of what happened in the gulf. While there is reason to doubt that the Cold War is over and done with (witness the crackdown in the Baltics), there would still be plenty of problems to contend with even should this prove to be the case. Saddam Hussein is only one example. The world, unfortunately, still has its share of Qaddafis, Castros, and Assads who can disturb the peace and threaten the security of the West.

As for the "toys," it is chilling to think what might have happened in the gulf if we hadn't acquired them. Millions who witnessed the spectacular fireworks over Riyadh and Tel Aviv, and even more so the people on the ground in these locations, are thankful today that the United States had the Patriot anti-missile system, Tomahawk cruise missiles, and other high-tech weapons at the ready.

Even so, the drumbeat about the need to cut back the military has continued—and our national priorities are following suit. The argument at this point is almost entirely budgetary. Whatever the merits of our performance in the gulf, it is argued, we have gone too far on spending for defense; at a time of \$300 billion deficits, we simply can't afford to keep lavishing dollars on the Pentagon.

Frequently stated in this discussion is the idea that military outlays are the major culprit in the budget melodrama. The decade of the '80s, supposedly, was a time of stringent cutback on domestic spending and simultaneous expansion of defense—from

which it follows that, if we have a monstrous deficit, the military must be the problem.

Such themes have been sounded repeatedly in the media and Congress, to the point where many Americans apparently accept them as unvarnished truth. Repeated stories about \$600 toilet seats, cost overruns on weapons projects, and constant references to Ronald Reagan's "trillion dollar buildup" have conveyed a message of massive overspending on defense.

This, however, is the biggest myth of all. In fact, the long-term budget trend of the United States is exactly the reverse of this familiar picture. Across a span of decades, the trend of military



spending has been sharply down, not up—a pattern that continues with a vengeance in the present era. Among the key particulars from the fiscal record:

- Measured as a share of the national budget, or of the nation's total economic output, military outlays over the past three decades have fallen like a stone. This trend was partially interrupted in the Reagan era, but has since resumed its downward journey.

- Even under Reagan, the deviation from the long-term trend was surprisingly small, as well as temporary—a few percentage points in the total budget. As a result, defense as a share of federal spending was essentially the same in 1990 as it had been in 1980, and was in a new state of free fall.

- Because defense had declined so

much in the 1970s, outgoing President Jimmy Carter proposed, in his final budget, a substantial buildup of the Pentagon. The five-year spending increase achieved by Reagan was actually less than Carter proposed.

- The truly mammoth increases in federal spending for this period have been for non-defense, domestic programs—which therefore bear the chief responsibility for the deficit. This upward surge of domestic spending continues at a rapid pace today.

The accompanying graphic (Table I) shows the long-term decline of military outlays as a share of federal spending. Given the usual publicity on this topic, the numbers are nothing short of amazing. In 1961, when John F. Kennedy was President, defense consumed some 51 percent of the federal budget; in 1971, even with the Vietnam War in progress, it was down to 37.5 percent; in 1981, when Reagan arrived in Washington, it was down to 23.2 percent—less than half of what it had been in the Kennedy era.

It was this statistical nose dive, at a time of Soviet buildup and global expansion, that convinced a lot of people we had to refurbish our defenses. The extent of this "defense consensus" by 1980 is seldom mentioned now, but it was a potent factor at the time. John M. Collins, military expert at the Library of Congress, recalls:

"Bipartisan support for a better balance between U.S. and Soviet armed forces emerged full blown early in 1980. It embraced the executive branch, Congress and most informed members of the American public. Argument about a U.S. buildup centered mainly on what to procure, in what quantities and at what rates. President Carter started the biggest peacetime

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Table I
Defense Spending As
A Share of Federal
Budget—1961-92

Year	% of Budget
1961	50.8
1965	42.8
1971	37.5
1975	26.0
1981	23.2
1985	26.7
1990	23.9
1992 (est.)	20.4

Source: Office of Management and Budget.

M. Stanton Evans is a frequent contributor to this magazine.

CAN AMERICA MAINTAIN ITS EDGE?

Supercollider, memory chips and genetics—progress in these crucial fields will determine the nation's security and competitiveness, says the President's science adviser.



UPERCOLLIDER, supercomputers, memory chips, genetics, nucleonics—these are more than exotic research targets for today's scientists. Progress in these crucial areas will determine the nation's security and trade competitiveness for all the future. The President's science adviser here tells where U.S. technology now stands, compared with others—and where we're going.

D. Allan Bromley, a leading nuclear physicist, is assistant to the President for Science and Technology and director of the Office of Science and Technology at the White House. He is a past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest scientific society, and is currently on leave from Yale University, where he was a professor of physics.

American Legion Magazine: The growth of stiff Japanese competition, coupled with West Europe's economic resurgence, has made many wonder: Is the United States in danger of losing its technological leadership?

D. Allan Bromley: Not at all. Except at the margins, the United States remains the strongest science and technology enterprise the world has ever seen. What has happened is that other countries, by focusing their resources and efforts in rather narrow areas, have managed to move up to equal us and, in a few areas, to move ahead of us. That's not surprising, and it shouldn't be any real cause for alarm. It's what we might expect as other countries build their economies.

Even so, we need to be concerned for one particular reason: In those areas where we don't ourselves define where scientific frontiers lie by our work, we have to be close enough to those frontiers so that we can exploit new dis-

coveries wherever and whenever they're made, without delay. That's the key point. If you get too far behind the frontiers, you simply are no longer competitive.

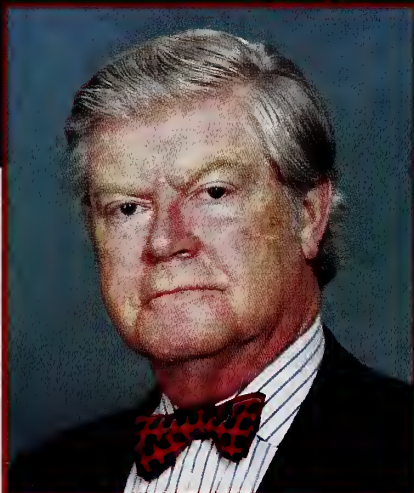
Q. Do we have the people and resources to do that?

A. I'm completely confident that we have the know-how, the technology, the people . . . and therefore the opportunity to remain competitive. But it's going to require that we have a much greater spirit of cooperation among our companies, our universities and our government laboratories than we have ever had before. If we work together, we can take on any competition the world can throw at us. However, if we spend most of our effort competing with one another, then we can be picked off one by one.

Q. Are you concerned that Japan is stealing our technological secrets and using these to create products that out-compete the United States?

A. There's no question that is true. We did that for centuries in regard to Europe, up until World War II. In today's world, we simply cannot protect our technology. What we have to do, instead, is to be much more aggressive in our negotiations with the Japanese, with the Europeans, with the Koreans, with everyone, so that when they get a benefit from us in technology, we have to be sure that we get a comparable benefit from them. We haven't done that in the past. We have tended to be rank amateurs in negotiations of this kind. And we have not done our homework to the extent we should.

Q. Everyone seems to be clamoring for more federal spending for research and development. Why can't U.S. industry do more?



D. ALLAN BROMLEY

"The development of super-computers is one of the President's three major initiatives for the 1992 fiscal year."

.....

A. You have to distinguish between basic research and the actual development of attractive products and services. In basic research, you cannot predict when, where or to whom the benefits will flow. And therefore, no single institution can guarantee to its stockholders or its management that they can collect a sufficient fraction of the benefits to justify their making the necessary investment. That is also true in the development of generic technologies. A couple of examples are particular new memory chips and high-resolution imaging devices. These are devices that can be used throughout industry and throughout the national security area. Here the federal government has the opportunity to move in and work with the private sector to make the United States competitive on an international scale.

Q. What does the nation get for all the money spent on research?

A. Three ultimate things: First, a recent study by Edwin Mansfield at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the nation's most distinguished economists, has shown that the

return on federal investment in academic, basic research is 28 percent per year. That's a pretty good return.

Second, the way we do research in this nation is inextricably tied with higher education. In addition to gaining new knowledge, we train the young minds that are going to use that knowledge creatively in the future.

And third, the search for the unknown, the pushing back of the frontiers of human ignorance is what really characterizes our civilization. It's what separates us from the animals. It's a fundamental part of our culture. It's the greatest adventure of mankind.

Q. The Persian Gulf War has re-emphasized our dependence on imported oil and our energy vulnerability, yet nuclear power development today is flat on its back. Can anything be done to get that rolling again?

A. Absolutely. As part of the national energy strategy, we have emphasized the importance of re-establishing a viable, dynamic nuclear industry in this country. Yet this cannot be done by simply doing more of the same we did before. We made a basic mistake in the early days of nuclear energy in this country in that we allowed the architects and engineers to redesign the wheel—to build each reactor as a totally new entity, which then took years and years to be certified as adequately safe. In my view, what we must do is develop new reactor types that are intrinsically safe. And these are now available. Utilities or any other organization that requires electrical energy can buy these in convenient, standardized units—certified as being safe.

Now, we have to convince the public that such nuclear power units are not only safe but that they are in the public's interest . . . because they are the only technology that can

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A FRIENDLY INVASION

• America stepped
• into World War II
• on the shores
• of Newfoundland
• and Labrador,
• and since 1940,
• more than 100,000
• U.S. troops have
• served there.



By John Cardoulis

THE feelings American servicemen and women have for Newfoundlanders is reflected in many ways, from friendship to family ties, from love and sorrow to an inseparable, amiable bond that has grown during 51 years of association.

With the arrival of a few U.S. Army

engineers in 1940, followed by thousands of American troops during and after World War II, the lives and social customs of Newfoundlanders were changed forever.

Before 1939, Newfoundland and its territory, Labrador, were unknown to most Americans. Today, it is a friendly port-of-call for more than 42,000 visiting American tourists each year, and a homecoming for thousands of Newfoundland women and their American husbands and their children.

Before World War II, the island of Newfoundland, Britain's oldest colony, was a quiet, peaceful country. Situated off Canada in the North Atlantic, with its wild and beautiful coastline, Newfoundland conveyed a ruggedness born of relentless and unforgiving seas. Its most eastern shore is the closest point in North America to both England and Europe. Labrador, the Newfoundland territory located on the mainland of Canada, is a vast, sparsely populated wilderness that reminds visitors in winter that the Arctic Circle is not far away. Newfoundland, in 1949, became the 10th province of Canada. Many changes have occurred on the island since 1940, but the people still retain the friendliness and hospitality that has always impressed the thousands of American military personnel and their families who were stationed there during the past 50 years.

At the beginning of hostilities in Europe in 1939, and the declaration of

ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY—The Atlantic Ferry Command flew more than 50,000 airplanes to Europe from Newfoundland.



ARWIDE WORLD PHOTOS



SHORE THING—Second Marine Brigade units wade ashore at Argentia, Newfoundland, during invasion maneuvers.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt wanted to help, direct assistance from the United States, not yet at war, was hampered by the U.S. Neutrality Act. American warships and aircraft were not allowed to sail or fly directly to the war zone in England, nor participate in any way without involving the United States in the war.

A lend-lease plan devised by President Roosevelt early in 1940 to assist England consisted in part of shipment of war materials from the United States to Canadian and Newfoundland ports, where they were transhipped to England by British ships. Hundreds of American-made bombers were flown to the Canadian border, where they were towed across by Canadians and then shipped by sea to England. On

Aug. 16, 1940, President Roosevelt established the Joint Permanent (U.S./Canadian) Board of Defense. Thus the concept of the Anglo-American Lend-Lease Agreement was born.

The escalation of the war in Europe enticed the U.S. War Department to strengthen its military positions in defense of the Western Hemisphere. Britain was in dire need of warships and the United States required bases outside its borders to protect its interests. A mutual agreement was made between the United States and England on Sept. 2, 1940, in which the United States would supply Britain with 50 U.S. destroyers in exchange for leased land in Newfoundland,

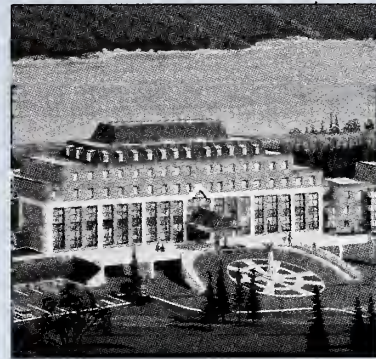
Bermuda and the West Indies. Britain accepted the destroyers in exchange for leased land in the West Indian Islands and in British Guiana. However, in the case of Newfoundland and Bermuda, the land was leased to the United States for 99 years, free of any remuneration.

Newfoundland, under British rule in 1939, was already at war but its defenses were practically nil. Canada was asked by England to assist New-

Please turn to page 50

*John Cardoulis is the author of the book **Friendly Invasion**, which chronicles the U.S. military in Newfoundland.*

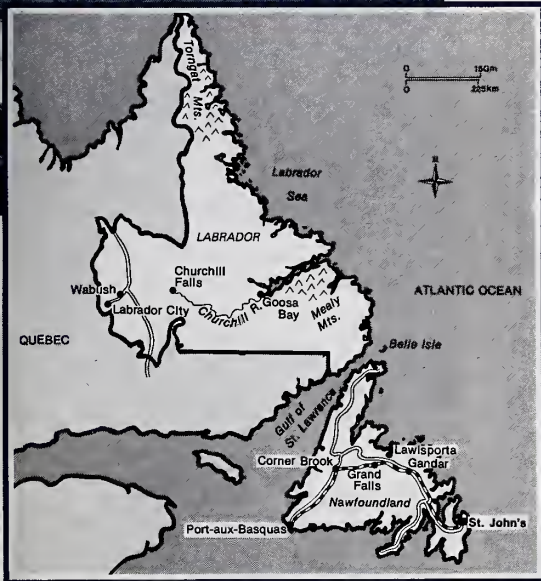
Samaritan Place: **A LIVING MEMORIAL**



THE early morning hours of Dec. 12, 1985, stand out as the greatest peacetime U.S. military tragedy ever, when a chartered Arrow Air Lines passenger jet crashed after takeoff and burned at Gander International Airport, Newfoundland, resulting in the loss of all aboard. Two hundred and forty-eight soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., and eight crew members died in the disaster. The American soldiers were returning home for Christmas to be with their families, after serving with the U.N. peace-keeping force in the Sinai Peninsula.

It was Canada's worst air disaster and one of the greatest losses suffered by a single division of the U.S. Armed Forces in peace or war. Newfoundlanders were deeply moved by the tragedy. The Township of Gander immediately prepared for visiting relatives and friends from the United States, and arranged for appropriate church services and visits to the crash area. In August 1990, the Gander Masonic Memorial Complex and the Town of Gander erected a monument at the Arrow crash site. The tribute consists of a soldier atop a massive rock, holding hands with two children. The monument faces Fort Campbell, Ky., and it is appropriately named "The Silent Witness." Dignitaries from Canada and the United States, including the 101st Airborne Division, were present for the unveiling.

Within a few weeks, the Town of
Please turn to page 51



war on Germany by Britain and France on Sept. 3, 1939, Newfoundland was immediately recognized by the United States and England as the most strategic location in the North Atlantic defense. Contingency plans by the U.S. War Department and the Ministry of War in England concluded that if Germany conquered Britain, Hitler would concentrate on North America by way of Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland.

In May 1940, conceding that England would not be able to continue on its own, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill requested immediate assistance from the United States. Though

T

HE awards ceremony in Ensenada, Mexico, was prestigious. Flag officers in the crowd represented such elegant yachting organizations as the San Diego Yacht Club, current home of America's Cup.

There were representatives of The Royal Australian Yacht Club of Sydney, the swank St. Francis Yacht Club of San Francisco and others from as far away as France and England.

More than 500 sailboats from around the world had competed in the classic annual race from Newport Beach, Calif., to Ensenada, Mexico. The Converse-Wurdman Trophy was about to be presented. The prize—not unlike the America's Cup, though not as prestigious—is a valued perpetual trophy in the shape of a sterling silver pitcher. It was first awarded in 1906. Behind the officials, the winner's burgee—the little tri-cornered flag a boat flies to show what yacht club it represents—was pulled up the mast as the speaker announced the victor.

"The winner with the fastest time in the PHRF J-class is . . ." said the official as a hush came over the crowd of some 5,000. "The winner is, The American Legion Yacht Club."

"The what?" gasped many of the yachtsmen in attendance. You could see them trying to decipher the red-white-and-blue burgee with its "sniper scope" cross hairs at the center. It was not a known burgee in the often snobbish circles of yachting. "The *what* yacht club?" somebody asked an official.

"The American Legion Yacht Club," he repeated. "The yacht *Half Fast*, skippered by Tony Haines, flying the colors of The American Legion Yacht Club of Newport Beach, Calif." He lifted the large trophy from the awards table as the crew of *Half Fast* climbed jubilantly to the stage to accept the honors and the cup.

Until May 1991, the cup was displayed in the entrance hall of American Legion Post 291. It is the envy of the more than 83 yacht clubs that comprise the Southern California Yachting Association, as well as the clubs from around the world that had tried to capture it in the 1990 race.

The American Legion Yacht Club is the only yacht club of its kind in the

Pat Michaels is a California-based freelance journalist who has written about 300 magazine articles.

THE

**WHAT
YACHT?**

CLUB

Legionnaires from Post 291 began The American Legion Yacht Club of Newport Beach, Calif., in 1966.

By Pat Michaels

world. It was started by Post members in 1966. Newport Beach is an exclusive water-oriented community and has the world's largest yacht harbor, with more than 14,000 yachtsmen calling it home port. The American Legion Yacht Club and Post 291 overlook the bay with a private beach, yacht marina and moorings offshore. The initiation fee of nearby yacht clubs ranges from the low thousands to as much as \$25,000. Dues range from \$75 a month to \$250 a month. Membership entitles a member to use the yacht club facilities, to compete in organized racing by flying the burgee and to use the services of other yacht clubs. A St. Francis Yacht Club member from San Francisco visiting San Diego, for instance, can use the facilities of the elegant San Diego Yacht Club, and have dinner served by white-gloved waiters, just as if he were a local member.

An American Legion Yacht Club member can also enjoy the same oppor-



ON DECK—From left, Tony Haines, Tom Holmes and Patrick Merrinian manned the *Half Fast* to win the 1990 Newport-Ensenada Race PHRF J class.

tunities and have the same guest privileges at most other yacht clubs throughout the world. The only difference is there is no initiation fee to join the club and, instead of monthly dues, there is one annual assessment. Members must be Legionnaires. Once that requirement is met, annual dues are \$25 for members of Post 291. Members of any



other American Legion Post can also enjoy membership privileges of the yacht club for \$26.50 a year. That way a Legionnaire yachtsman on Lake Michigan or anywhere else can be eligible to compete in inter-club yacht races, or simply fly The American Legion Yacht Club burgee while they visit other neighboring yacht clubs.

On July 4, 1990, The American Legion Yacht Club received front-page recognition for its "Old Glory Regatta." While our flag was under fire in Congress and at the Supreme Court, the



SHIP SHAPE—Post 291 overlooks the Newport Beach Bay (above), and from left, Commander Bill von Esch, Secretary Sally Chapman and Treasurer Frank Kaiser manage Post operations.

club announced a competition among yachtsmen to show their love of the American Flag. Other yacht clubs were invited to participate by decorating their vessels patriotically and simply sailing past the reviewing committee stationed under the mast of The American Legion Yacht Club on the bay. The Legionnaires were slightly chagrined—and proud—when a judging committee, largely composed of media people, selected as the winning boat, Post 291 Legionnaire Bill von Esch's *Sea Baron*.

In most respects, except dues, The

American Legion Yacht Club is like any other accredited yacht club in the world. Its unique building is decorated with nautical gadgets, and it has the typical yacht club mast which it erected in 1990 in honor of fellow member Robert Owens, a retired Marine major who was a fighter pilot ace and hero at Guadalcanal.

But it is probably that mast and the flags it flies that distinguishes the Legion club from all others. On the staff of honor is the American Flag. Behind the top of the mast is that unique burgee which so few recognized at the winner's salute ending the 1990 Newport-Ensenada race. Then there is the rigging cross-bar which holds the eight "etiquette" lifts which fly the flags of the commodore and those of his fellow flag officers whenever any of them are "aboard." However, The American Legion Yacht Club has a ninth lift on its mast that others don't: the black-and-white banner of the POWs and MIAs.

That POW-MIA flag symbolizes the spirit of The American Legion Yacht Club. It is a winning yacht club with its eyes on the America's Cup, but its heart is in The American Legion. □

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL JUSTICE PICTURE GROUP

The American Legion is convinced that the nation can afford a more realistic educational assistance package for military veterans," John Hanson, director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee during testimony in support of the Legion's newly proposed Persian Gulf GI Bill for Desert Storm veterans.

The Legion plan would increase the monthly basic education assistance for veterans to \$777, and restore the non-contributory clause which does not require veterans to help fund the benefit. The proposal also calls for 36 to 45 months of entitlement, depending on length of service.

Hanson said some congressmen have disagreed with the Legion's proposal because military men and women today are not drafted, but volunteer to serve.

"There may never have been a better trained military in our history, but we cannot ensure that we will always be so lucky in the future if we don't offer something of real value in exchange for that service," Hanson said during testimony. "We wonder about efforts to provide tokens of appreciation for these men and women. What if they had made only a token effort against Saddam Hussein?"

The Legion presented the Persian Gulf GI Bill proposal because studies have shown that today's military education benefits provide only about 42 percent of the average cost of attending a state institution. Veterans of earlier eras received between 90 percent and 100 percent of their education and training costs paid by the government.

"We trained and educated a work force that became the great American middle class. We set a standard the world envied, and the money came back in higher taxes and increased production," Hanson said.

Hanson also testified that the Legion fully supports re-employment rights for returning servicemen and women.

"If service in the Reserve or National Guard becomes a burden for our citizens, they will not serve, and the active duty force must be used to take up the slack if national security is to be maintained," Hanson said.

The American Legion is calling for full disclosure on the progress and results of a DoD investigation into an alleged cover-up of information about POWs/MIAs.

The Legion's action comes on the heels of the resignation of Col. Millard A. Peck, director of the Special Office of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, Defense Intelligence Agency.

Peck alleged a cover-up in a resignation memo that stated the POW/MIA issue "is being manipulated by unscrupulous people in government, or associated with government. Some are using the issue for personal or political advantage and others use it as a forum to perform and feel important, or worse," he wrote. "The sad fact, however, is that this issue is being controlled and a cover-up may be in progress. The entire charade does not appear to be an honest effort, and may have never been."

In his memo, Peck also questioned the role of the executive director of the National League of Families of the American

Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia. "...she is adamantly opposed to any initiative to get to the heart of the problem, and, more importantly, interferes in or actively sabotages POW/MIA analyses or investigations... Her influence in 'jerk[ing] around' everyone and everything involved in the issue goes far beyond the 'war and MIA protester gone straight' scenario."

Commenting on Peck's charges, National Commander Robert S. Turner said: "While we continue to oppose any proposal that the United States give diplomatic recognition to Vietnam as a means of obtaining information about the missing American citizens in Southeast Asia, we will not be hamstrung by a private, not-for-profit group which appears to be acting independent of the government on a very sensitive matter." Turner said the Legion is totally committed to the families of the POWs/MIAs, but added that the Legion "will not be part of a government side show that provokes more questions than it answers."

In a letter to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, Turner requested to be kept fully informed on the matter and indicated to the Secretary that the Legion might have to reassess its long-standing support for government-to-government negotiations on the POW/MIA issue.

The number of unemployed veterans increased by more than 90 percent in the past year, according to James B. Hubbard Jr., director of the Legion's Economic Commission, who testified before a Senate subcommittee about the proposed 1992 VA budget.

During testimony, Hubbard stated that the proposed \$42.2 million reduction in the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) would not provide for the 1,880 positions needed to conduct the program.

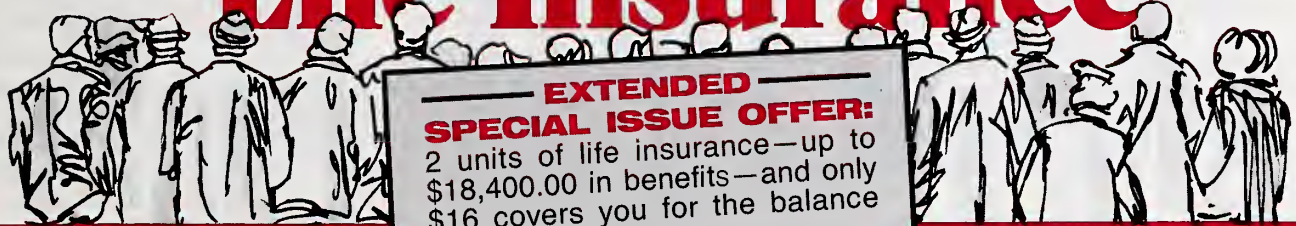
Hubbard told the subcommittee the proposed budget does not provide enough funding for other veterans employment services, such as the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER). The mandated level for LVER staffing is 1,600, but the proposed budget only provides for 1,492.

Hubbard also criticized plans to reduce the size of the military and slash funding for veterans' employment programs. "We believe it makes no sense to send men and women to war, bring them back, force them out of the service and release them into a moribund economy while eliminating the very programs designed to help them with a transition to civilian life," he said.

Kentucky Vietnam-era veterans with service in previous wars are eligible for a bonus from the state. The bonus will be in addition to bonuses already paid for service in World War II or the Korean War.

The deadline for filing applications is Oct. 31, 1991. For more information, call 1-502-564-5220, or write to The Veterans Bonus Branch, P.O. Box 1424, Frankfort, KY 40602.

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FATAL INTERACTIONS

VA Office of Inspector General uncovers mismanagement and shoddy health care at North Chicago VA Medical Center.



INVESTIGATED—VA conducted a 10-month investigation of the North Chicago VAMC by studying records of patients who died after treatment.

A FATAL slippage in health care contributing to the deaths of at least six veterans at North Chicago VA Medical Center has sparked an outcry among veterans and concern on Capitol Hill about the quality of care in the country's 172 VA hospitals.

"Our nation recently showed its pride in the accomplishments of our newest generation of Desert Storm veterans, but we cannot help but be disgusted over the shabby treatment of those who bore the burdens of past wars," said

National Commander Robert S. Turner. "Those Americans who were willing to lay their lives on the line for their country should not be forced to face undue hazards in the wards of a state-side VA medical facility," Turner said.

Anonymous letter writers who charged North Chicago VA with delivering substandard care at its 1,000 bed facility prompted a 10-month investigation begun in June 1990 by the VA Office of Inspector General. A review team initiated on-site investigations by studying medical records for 43 of the 140 patients who had died after receiving treatment at the center between

June 1989 and March 1990. The VA report, released March 25, revealed a staggering array of mismanagement, misdiagnoses, ill-advised surgical procedures, shoddy record keeping, poor supervision of medical residents, and failure to deliver the type of care most needed by the majority of patients.

Legion officials, however, commended VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski for conducting a thorough investigation and reporting the results of the VA's internal probe. "We have informed the secretary that, while we salute him for his prompt and courageous response in North Chicago, The American Legion will be looking over his shoulder at VA medical centers and clinics around the country," said John Hanson, director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division.

Testifying April 24 before a House subcommittee, Hanson said the Office of Inspector General's report revealed a disgraceful record of neglect. "We are deeply troubled by the apparent lack of care and compassion by some of the management team at the North Chicago VAMC," Hanson told the House Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care. "We are equally troubled by the rush to explain away deaths caused by incompetence. Veterans have earned more than that kind of treatment, and we will continue to demand it. They also deserve to know that their advocates care about real solutions, reached thoughtfully, not quick fixes which will deny them their care and further embarrass us all."

The revelations led to the immediate suspension of all vascular and orthopedic surgical procedures; and VA officials severed the center's affiliation with the Chicago Medical School, effective next spring, though VA has the option to rescind its order if warranted. The hospital's chief of staff was transferred, while hospital director Leonard Rogers, who left North Chicago VA after he was promoted to a post in Washington, D.C., was transferred and disciplined when the controversy broke. The record of neglectful treatment investigators uncovered at North Chicago VA made headlines nationwide. Some examples:

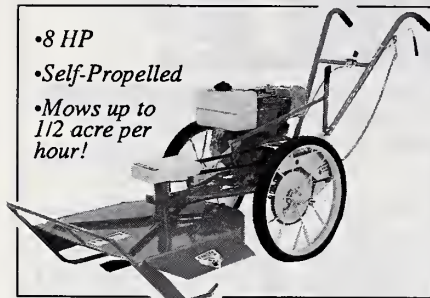
- A 69-year-old man admitted July 17, 1989, undergoes an operation to remove his vocal cords. Nursing personnel and a medical student assigned to the case note bleeding from the incision but take no action, despite lab

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reports that indicate post-operative complications. The man died July 30, 1989.

• A patient who died Sept. 6, 1989, following emergency surgery for a ruptured aortic aneurysm, sought treatment for acute abdominal pain on Aug. 17, but was told by a medical resident to return the next day. VA's surgical consultant who reviewed the case criticized the staff's failure to diagnose the severity of the veteran's condition, and for clamping an artery during surgery that led to kidney failure.

• A 68-year-old man complained of chest pains and shortness of breath six days after undergoing prostate surgery in February 1990. A physician ordered tests and the patient was given an antacid instead of being taken to the intensive-care unit. Two hours later he died of cardiac arrest.

• On March 17, 1990, a patient died of a ruptured aortic aneurysm nine days after hernia surgery. Medical inspectors said doctors failed to diagnose the patient's condition. "The documentation in the medical records raises concerns as to who was managing this patient, as well as the attending physician's involvement in the case," wrote an independent medical consultant.

• A 71-year-old veteran died April 3, 1990, following exploratory surgery. Although the patient had undergone several diagnostic procedures prior to surgery, the hospital staff failed to detect the presence of liver cancer and an ulcer before proceeding with the surgery.

Among other case histories, the VA Office of Inspector General uncovered a pattern of spotty medical record keeping and lack of supervision by physicians responsible for patient care. Perhaps the most glaring and tragic example of neglect documented by VA officials involved the case of Legionnaire Thomas Murrey of Fox Lake, Ill. Murrey, 68, the former service officer of Lake Region Post 703, was admitted to North Chicago Nov. 12, 1989, and underwent surgery to remove a cancerous prostate. According to the review report, during the procedure a surgeon nicked an artery near Murrey's small intestine, causing internal bleeding. A VA consultant called the surgical gaffe, "A most unusual complication and one that I have never seen following prostatectomy." A World War II veteran awarded the Bronze Star for valor, Murrey died while undergoing surgery to correct the damaged artery. Murrey's

case became news after his widow contacted a Chicago newspaper to inquire about the North Chicago VA investigation and she consented to be interviewed.

Aside from disclosures of substandard medical care detailed in the VA inspector general's report, investigators concluded North Chicago VA's affiliation agreement with the Chicago Medical School was a major handicap to delivering the level of care consistent with the center's mission. North Chicago had been designated the primary psychiatric facility for the medical district. The bulk of the center's patient population required primary care, extended care and geriatrics programs. But the report noted an unhealthy bond between North Chicago and the medical school, one that stressed specialty procedures not warranted by the center's caseload, and specialty programs that focused on the medical school's residency and student training requirements instead of patients' needs.

Hanson said the "disastrous cases" chronicled in the inspector general's 111-page report revealed a serious lack of physician peer review and quality assurance management, priorities found to be prominent on paper but not in practice.

"It appears that the physician faculty, immersed in parochial endeavors, neglected their responsibilities as hands-on medical practitioners," Hanson said. "A complaint is often voiced that under VAMC/medical school affiliation agreements, the medical school assumes the role of the tail that wags the dog by injecting itself into the center's management process occasionally to the point of influencing the choice of senior management officials and setting policy."

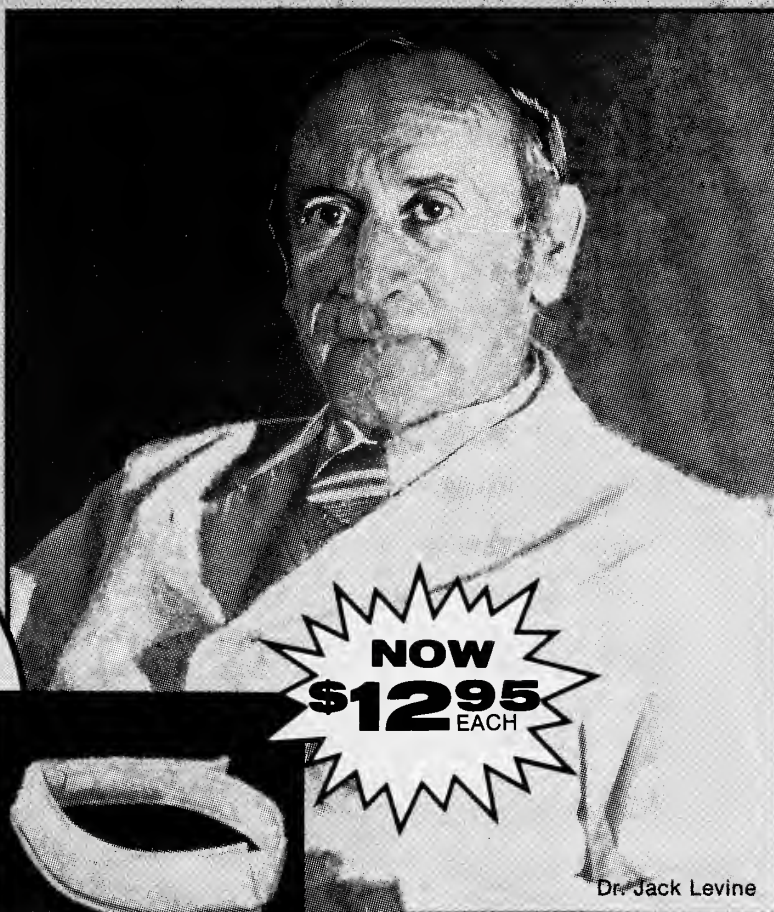
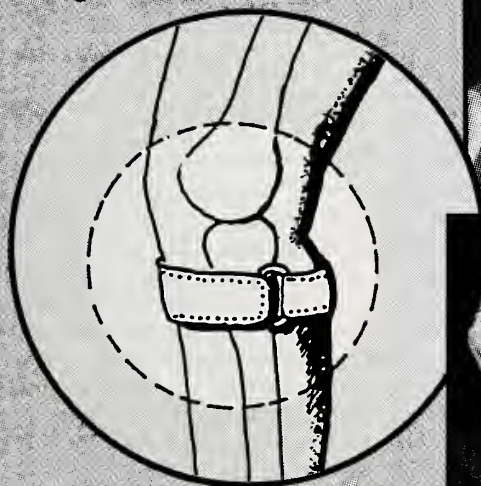
Apparently others agree with the Legion's assessment that North Chicago VAMC was operating under the influence of the Chicago Medical School. VA Chief Medical Director Dr. James W. Holsinger announced April 1, 1991, that North Chicago VAMC had been redesignated a primary care and chronic disease center that must tailor the level of care to its redefined mission.

Legionnaires expect a remedy to the conditions that led to the veterans' deaths. "We hope VA's Quality Assurance program is more than a paper tiger, but is instead a powerful management tool with some teeth," Hanson said. "America's veterans deserve no less." By Anthony Miller □

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Legion World Series Game To Be Televised On ESPN

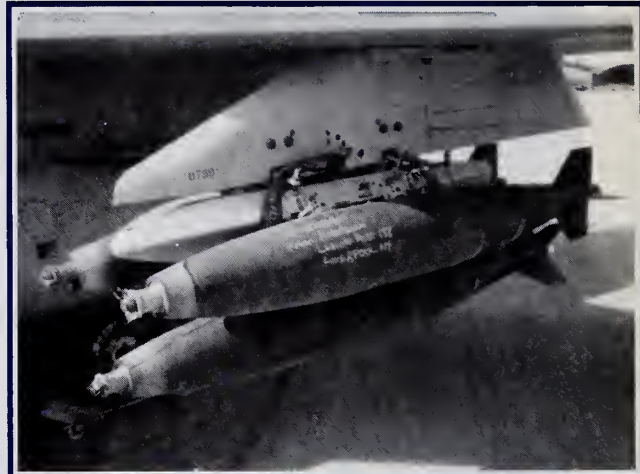
FOR the fourth consecutive year, ESPN will televise the final game of The American Legion World Series.

The game will be played Aug. 25, and ESPN will tape the game for showing Aug. 27 at 1 p.m. (EST).

As a 30-year high, 4,132 Legion Baseball teams are participating in the 66th annual tournament, and the winners from eight regions

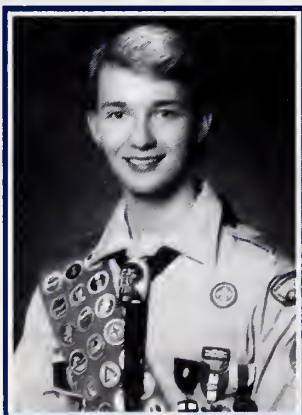
will compete in the double-elimination finals in Boyertown, Pa. About 82,000 youths played Legion Baseball during the 1991 season, and more than 60 percent of today's major league baseball players participated in Legion Baseball.

Gatorade is sponsoring \$10,000 in scholarships this year, awarding eight \$1,000 scholarships to one player from each region and \$2,000 to The American Legion Baseball Player of the Year.



BOMBS AWAY—Master Sgt. George K. Turnes painted this personal address on an F-16 fighter's bombs on behalf of American Legion Post 188 of Liverpool, N.Y. The F-16, ready for takeoff, is from the 174th Fighter Wing stationed in the Persian Gulf.

Alabama Youth Named Scout Of The Year



Benjamin B. Thomas

THE American Legion Scout of the Year for 1991 is Benjamin B. Thomas, 18, of Indian Springs, Ala.

The Scout of the Year award is the most recent accomplishment in Thomas's years of scouting. He earned his Eagle Scout Award at age 13 and earned all Cub Scout awards, including the Arrow of Light. Thomas, a member of Explorer Post 50 and a senior at Indian Springs School, also became National Boy Scout Jamboree Patrol Leader in 1985, and he has received several God and Country religious awards.

For being named The American Legion Scout of the Year, Thomas will receive an \$8,000 college scholarship, which will be disbursed during a four-year period, and he will receive a trip to the 73rd National Convention in Phoenix, Aug. 30 to Sept. 5.

In addition to his scouting achievements, Thomas has received a silver medal for the National Latin Examination, the Presidential Physical Fitness Award, the University of Alabama Scholastic Achievement Award, and he is a Na-

tional Merit Scholar and a Congressional Scholar.

He plans to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology and major in biomedical engineering.

The three runners-up receiving \$2,000 scholarships are Andrew S. McCampbell, 17, Sweetwater, Tenn.; Homer L. Howard III, 17, Greenville, Miss.; and Ted D. Glasco, 18, Bird City, Kan.

Hope To Bring Road Show To Convention

BOB HOPE, who has traveled to foxholes, warships and jungles to entertain U.S. troops, will take the stage Sept. 1 at the gala Freedom Fest '91 during the 73rd National Convention to en-

ertain veterans once more.

Hope will be featured in the three-hour Freedom Fest that includes a special indoor parade which will recognize the membership accomplishments of Legion Departments.

Forty-five years ago, Hope received the Distinguished Service Medal at the 28th National Convention in San Francisco. For almost 50 years, Hope has entertained U.S. troops in all wars and many locales, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and Desert Storm.

Freedom Fest begins at 3 p.m. and will include musical presentations, a memorial service and a tribute to Desert Storm forces. About 15,000 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of the American Legion will attend the convention. A bus service from delegate hotels will run to Veterans Memorial Coliseum, the Freedom Fest site.

Family Support Network Receives ASAE Community Service Award

THE American Legion Family Support Network has helped more than 33,000 military families and recently earned a Certificate of Excellence for community service from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE).

Of about 300 entries, The Family Support Network and 46 other associations received recognition in such areas as education, product and safety standards, professional standards and codes of ethics, research and statistics, international activities, and community service.

Although the Persian Gulf War has been won and troops are returning home, the Family Support Network continues to serve families and members of the U.S. military. Through the Family Support Network, Departments and Posts have given more than \$45,000 in financial aid to those in need.

Any military family needing assistance can still call toll free 1-800-786-0901 for assistance.

"I am proud that ASAE recognized the value of the Legion's continuing contributions to the country," said National Commander Robert S. Turner. "But more important, 33,000 persons have been helped by American Legion volunteers during the Persian Gulf War."

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Reunion Coordinators PRAISE VETNET

"It's More Than A Reunion Service"

REUNION coordinators across the nation are praising The American Legion's new VetNet program. Several thousand groups are enrolled and new requests arrive daily.

About half the VetNet groups are planning reunions and the other half are using VetNet's MailCall to keep in touch with each other by phone on a regular basis.

VetNet can be reached from Touch-Tone phones by dialing **1-900-773-VETS** (1-900-773-8387). Callers must

know their group's personal 5-digit VetNet number to use the system. Directory assistance is available at 1-800-348-VETS.

Several general VetNet message boards have been created for each branch of service and combat era (see accompanying chart). These special VetNet numbers (VNOS) are for callers who want to try to reach individuals, or seek information about groups that are not currently enrolled in VetNet.

Additional features will be announced later, but those groups with individual numbers are making good

use of the new system now.

"We thank you for your VetNet concept," wrote Herbert W. Reith, national secretary of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Assn. Reith also enclosed a copy of an article about VetNet prepared for the group's newsletter.

Ralph A. Lewis is forming the Escort Carrier Sailors and Airmen's Association. He said many WWII veterans want a quick and efficient way to find buddies. "This (VetNet) could be a great help," he added. "Many thanks for what you are doing."

The response has been gratifying to National Commander Robert S. Turner. VetNet switched on the phone systems June 1 and logged more than 4,000 calls in the first two weeks of operation. Many of the first calls were reunion coordinators leaving messages for their groups on VetNet "bulletin boards."

"The VetNet program you have established is absolutely beautiful," wrote Lawrence L. Hamacher Jr., a retired brigadier general who serves as executive director of the 28th Division Heritage Association.

"Thanks a million," noted Everett Mills, coordinator of the 591st Engineer Boat Regiment. Larry Neuberger of the *USS Gage* (APA-168) added, "Thanks for the help that is being given for organizing reunions. It is long overdue."

But as many callers are discovering, VetNet doesn't stop with just helping to organize reunions. VetNet is a way for veterans to keep in touch throughout the year. VetNet's MailCall feature immediately follows the coordinator's message. By using MailCall, VetNet callers can leave messages for the coordinator and for others in the outfit.

Each outfit with a VetNet number has its own MailCall system so callers hear only messages from people in that particular unit. Most of the first MailCall messages have been from outfit members who have lost touch with their buddies and want to attend the next reunion. However, other messages are making their way into MailCall.

Some callers request cards for hospitalized buddies. Others need help or are planning small gatherings between reunions. A few messages have announced new grandchildren, retirement and other welcomed news.

Examples of VetNet and MailCall messages are available by dialing 1-900-773-8387 and entering 12345 when asked for an outfit number. Calls cost \$1 per minute and proceeds are used for American Legion programs. ☐

WHAT IS VETNET?

VETNET is a telecommunications service for veterans, their families and friends. The system provides a fast, simple and economic way to help military groups get together . . . and stay in touch. VetNet is the product of Softguard Systems, Inc., the company that helped develop the very successful Family Support Network of The American Legion that was established to help Desert Storm families.

You can call the VetNet number from most touch-tone telephones. You will need the VetNet number of the group you want to reach. These five-digit numbers are published in THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, are provided by group coordinators and are also available from VetNet Directory Assistance by calling toll free

1-800-348-VETS

To find out information on a particular group, dial

1-900-773-VETS
(1-900-773-8387).

VetNet will tell you the price of the call and other basic instructions. After the greeting you will be asked to enter the 5-digit VetNet group number. You may also elect to hear a VetNet demonstration message.

After entering the 5-digit number, you will hear a message from the reunion coordinator of the group you selected. When this message is completed, you will be asked if you want to use the group's MailCall feature or return to the main menu to select another group.

VetNet guides you through the entire process. You may hang up at anytime. In MailCall, you can skip over messages, record and edit your own message or simply listen to news from other callers. **NOTE:** VetNet cannot be reached from some touch-tone phones because local phone companies do not have the necessary switching equipment. We are working with the phone companies to correct this situation. Also be aware that pay phones and some company switchboards will not process VetNet calls.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Outfit Reunion notices should be submitted on official forms. To obtain forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: O.R. Form, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Because of printing schedules, notices should be received at least five months before reunions are held. Notices are published only one time per unit per year. No notices are published in November.

Army

102nd Medical Bn., 27th Div. (Sept.-Eureka Springs, AR) Vernon Thiele, 7355 McLellan Dr., Walton Hills, OH 44146. **21858**

103rd Inf. Div. (WWII) (Sept.-Dallas) Betty Ellsworth, 8260 Moreland Rd., Jerome, MI 49249. **21864**

108th Inf. Rgt., 40th Div. (Nov.-Rochester, NY) Jim Noblitt, 312 McBrien Rd., #225, Chattanooga, TN 37411. **21859**

109th Evac. Veterans (WWII) (Sept.-Philadelphia) Howard Klitgaard, 9073 N. Silver Brook Ln., Brown Deer, WI 53223. **16648**

10th Arm'd Div. Veterans Assn. (Aug.-Birmingham, AL) Samuel Murov, Box 213, Bay Port, MI 48720. **15959**

10th Inf. Assn., 5th Div. (Sept.-London, KY) Clifford Wilford, 1502 Melvine St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198. **11169**

10th Mountain Div. (Sept.-Cadillac, MI) Roy Puckett, 31642 Grove Dr., Livonia, MI 48154. **11179**

112th Armor, 2nd Bn. (Oct.-Ft. Worth, TX) Dale Pyeatt, Box 10045, Austin, TX 78766-1045. **21860**

116th Inf., 29th Div., E Co. - (WWII) (Sept.-Gatlinburg, TN) John Hornberger, 12350 Muscovy Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32223. **11161**

118th Inf., 30th Div., I Co. (Sept.-Rock Hill, SC) John Snipes, 1260 Porter Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29730. **11159**

121st QM Car Co. (Oct.-Shartlesville, PA) Harold Casper, 633 State St., Hamburg, PA 19526. **16651**

123rd Gen. Hospital (Sept.-Cleveland) Thomas Glennon, 82 Arlington Rd., Woburn, MA 01801. **21861**

130th Inf., 33rd Div., L Co. (Sept.-Springfield, IL) R.T. Gibson Jr., 512 2nd St., Elizabeth, PA 15037. **11121**

131st QM Trk Co. (Oct.-Shartlesville, PA) Guy Degler, Port Clinton, PA 19549. **21862**

136th Trans. Co. (Med Hel) (Sept.-Austin, TX) Lawrence Chiappino, 9700 Chukar Cir., Austin, TX 78758. **21863**

13th USASA Field Station (Sept.-Nashville, TN) William Garner, 10063 Fairview Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73159-7230. **21852**

151st Inf., 38th Div., Cannon Co. (Oct.-Gainesville, TX) Elmo Frost, Rt. 1, Box 345, Gainesville, TX 76240. **11118**

151st/175th FA Bns., 34th Inf. Div. (WWII) (Sept.-Minneapolis) Leon Spittle, 4511 Russell Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. **21855**

166th General Hospital (Sept.-Milwaukee) Monica Carollo, 3609 N. Tucker Place, Milwaukee, WI 53222. **15529**

175th Cannon Co., 29th Div. Assn. (Sept.-Atlantic City, NJ) Philip Paul, Rt. 338, Box 642, Knox, PA 16232. **21865**

1886th Engrs. (WWII) (Sept.-Imperial, MO) Les Terrell, 5195 W. Leonard Springs Rd., Bloomington, IN 47403. **21882**

18th/1st FA Bns. (Sept.-Ft. Sill, OK) John Driskill, 19 Ketch Creek Dr., Lawton, OK 73501. **11158**

192nd General Hospital (Sept.-Davenport, IA) Ralph Zurliene, Rt. 5, Charter Hill, Princeton, IL 61356. **11122**

195th Ord. Depot Co. (Korea) (Sept.-Norristown, PA) Adolph Lightman, 1945 Guernsey Ave., Abington, PA 19001. **21866**

1st FA Bn., 6th Div., C Btry. (Sept.-Lafayette, IN) Hartsel Livingston, Rt. 2, Box 50, Monticello, IN 47960. **21848**

200th QM Gas Supply Co. (Oct.-Clearwater Beach, FL) John Ovenchick, 687 Churchmans Rd., Newark, DE 19702. **21867**

223rd Bn., 40th Inf., M Co. - (Korea) (Oct.-Red Bluff, CA) Billie Polley Sr., 11677 Andrews St., Red Bluff, CA 96080. **11191**

226th AAA S/L Bn., B Btry. (Nov.-Daytona Beach, FL) Aaron Funk Jr., Box 664, New Philadelphia, OH 44663. **11167**

23rd Engrs., Field Maint. Div. - (Verdun/1959-61) (February 1992-Lake Havasu City, AZ) Frankie Locciano, 2434 Burnett St., Brooklyn, NY 11229. **11229**

250th Engr. (C) Bn., A Co. (Aug.-Gatlinburg, TN) Joe Turner, 6968 Kingsroad Dr., Southaven, MS 38671. **11148**

265th FA Bn., C Btry. (Sept.-Amana, IA) Donald Daven-

port, 8836 Evanston Way, Kansas City, MO 64138. **11172**

26th Arty., 108th Arty. Grp., F Btry. - (Dong Ha, South Vietnam) (June 1993-Las Vegas) Terry Davey, 11370 Wahl Rd., St. Charles, MI 48655. **11224**

275th Port Co. (Sept.-Kansas City, MO) Leon Kirk, 739 Forest, Topeka, KS 66616. **21868**

27th Tank Bn., 20th Arm'd Div., B Co. (Nov.-St. Louis) Charles Shada Jr., 4322 Cox Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95409. **21853**

280th F.A. Bn. (WWII) (Oct.-) Joe Re, 2128 16th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. **16212**

285th FA Obsn. Bn. (Sept.-Norfolk, VA) C.H. Cook, Rt. 1, Box 1494, Kilmarnock, VA 22482. **11132**

2nd Inf., 5th Div., I Co. - (WWII) (Sept.-Battle Creek, MI) Leon Belardinelli, 1351 Windsor Ct., Elgin, IL 60120. **15387**

303rd Inf., 97th Div., D Co. (Sept.-Pleasanton, CA) Clem Schlosser, 1 Co. Rd. 10 #207, Waconia, MN 55387. **11160**

30th Inf. Assn., Cannon Co. (Sept.-Memphis, TN) Dave Jolly Jr., 30 Wallace Rd., Memphis, TN 38117. **11152**

30th Inf. Div. (Sept.-Long Beach, CA) Saul Solow, 13645 Whippet Way E., Del Ray Beach, FL 33484. **21854**

31st General Hospital - (WWII) (Oct.-Colorado Springs) Francis Schweitzer, 9408 W. 77th Ave., Schererville, IN 46375. **11131**

322nd Medical Bn., 97th Inf. Div., A Co. (Oct.-Nashville, TN) Norman Mathis, 2109 Linden Ave., Middletown, OH 45044. **21869**

328th FA Bn., 337th Inf. Rgt., 310th Engr., A Co. (Sept.-Cincinnati) C.D. Inman, Box 932, Union, SC 29379. **21871**

32nd General Hospital - (WWII) (Oct.-Ft. Lauderdale, FL) Joe Thompson, 110 Cypress Club Dr., #123, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. **11140**

334th Ord. Depot Co. (May.-Cincinnati) Joseph Hagen, 1539 Kinney Ave., Mt. Healthy, OH 45231. **16729**

33rd Inf. Div. - (Including support groups) (Sept.-Louisville, KY) Lyle Powers, 202 S. Seventh St., Brighton, MI 48116. **11150**

355th Engrs. - WWII (1992-) Jack Lawlor, 3810 E. Northern Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21206. **11230**

36th FA (WWII) (Oct.-Charleston, SC) Danny Tanous, 2 Wagonwheel Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776. **21856**

37th Div. Veterans Assn. (Aug.-Youngstown, OH) 37th Div. Vets Assn., 65 S. Front St., Rm. 707, Columbus, OH 43215. **15753**

387th Inf., 97th Div., D Co. (Sept.-Williamsburg, VA) Wally Speers, Rt. 1 Box 46A, Lavale, MD 21502. **16229**

387th Rgt., 97th Div., A Co. (Aug.-Cincinnati) Charles Hunt, 10686 Creeknoll Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45221. **16467**

3rd Arm'd Cav. Rgt., G/I & Howitzer Cos. (1953) (Oct.-Norfolk, VA) Robert Wilson, 3001 NC 57, Hillsborough, NC 27278. **21849**

439th Signal Bn., Heavy Const. (July 1992-Hilton Head, SC) Lester Bell, 25 Tudor City Place, #2012, New York, NY 10017. **11201**

44th Engr. Bn. - (Korea) (Sept.-Louisville, KY) Harold O'Connell, 1134 Liberty St., Braintree, MA 02184. **11171**

460th Engr. (Sept.-Indianapolis) M.B. Furr, 624 Hamilton St., Newton, NC 28658. **16623**

467th AAA AW Bn., C Btry. (Sept.-St. Louis) Al Uzzetta, 1424 Gravois Rd., High Ridge, MO 63049. **10432**

472nd AAA Bn. (Oct.-Kissimmee, FL) Edwin Kwiat, 838 Victory Ln., Justice, IL 60458. **11250**

488th AAA Bn. (Sept.-Zion, IL) Art Blase, 190 S. Wood Dale Rd., #707, Wood Dale, IL 60191. **11146**

512th Engrs. (Sept.-Madison, WI) John Witt, 428 S. Bird St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590. **11176**

526th Arm'd Inf. Bn. - (WWII) (1992-Orlando, FL) Will Wasson, 6000 San Jose Blvd., 1F, Jacksonville, FL 32217. **11216**

52nd Medical Bn. - (WWII) (Oct.-Lockport, NY) William Smith, 75 Willett St., Albany, NY 12210. **15583**

535th ORD. HM Co. (Sept.-Dubuque, IA) Kenneth Teeter, 1771 Sherbrook Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. **20103**

551st AAA Bn. (WWII) (Oct.-Asheville, NC) Benjamin Knauf, 58 Wright Rd., Henrietta, NY 14467. **16307**

555th/563rd/566th/573rd SAW Bns. (Nov.-Baltimore) Robert Norton, 2013 Wooded Way, Adelphi, MD 20783. **21872**

571st Signal Co. (Sept.-Columbus, GA) Robert Berry Sr., 203 Second Ave., Haddon Heights, NJ 08035. **15751**

57th Signal Bn. (Oct.-Warwick, RI) John Trombi, 15 Peach Tree Lane, Coventry, RI 02816. **11127**

602nd FA Bn. (Pk) (WWII) (Sept.-Denver) Art Helmers, 14000 E. Linvale Pl., #505, Aurora, CO 80014. **15591**

615th Ord. Bn. (Oct.-Sandusky, OH) August Lombardo, 38 W. Chestnut St., Norwalk, OH 44857. **11182**

635th TD Bn. (Sept.-Overland Park, KS) Harold Pelleg-rino, 1630 W. 28th Terr., Topeka, KS 66611. **21873**

65th Field Hospital (Oct.-Kings Mountain, NC) Ollie Harris, Box 639, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. **21857**

661st TD Bn. (Sept.-Biloxi, MS) William Beswick, Box 576, West Point, VA 23181. **11166**

68th AAA Gun Bn. - Korea (Dec.-Beverly Hills, CA) George Hernandez, 270 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90211. **16721**

69th Inf. Div. (Sept.-Biloxi, MS) Clarence, New Ken-sington, PA 15068. **11165**

707th Tank Bn. (WWII) (Sept.-Kansas City, MO) John Bickers, Box 481, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562. **16702**

735th MP Bn. (Oct.-Gettysburg, PA) Joseph Kelly, Rt. 1, Box 382B, Belvidere, NJ 07823. **16676**

738th FA Bn. (July 1992-Seattle) John Daniels, Box 28, Long Lake, MN 55356. **11209**

739th AAA Gun Bn. (Sept.-St. Louis) Robert Hepps, 130 Girard Pl., Kirkwood, MO 63122. **11178**

740th Tank Bn. (Aug.-Oklahoma City, OK) Jack Fryrear, 602 Ute Ave., Stillwater, OK 74075. **21874**

745th R.O.B. (Oct.-Orlando, FL) Vernon MacPhee, Box 1945, Hampton, NH 03842. **15494**

747th/777th MP Bns., LA MP SCU-1909 (Sept.-Omaha, NE) Thurman Williams, 1165 Holgate Ave., Maumee, OH 43537. **21875**

755th Tank Bn. (Sept.-Houston, TX) C.H. Hickman, 714 Hampton Hill, Tyler, TX 75703. **11139**

756th FA Bn. Assn. (Sept.-Pittsburgh, PA) Samuel Corrado, 4345 E. Barilind Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15227. **16132**

765th Trans. Railroad Bn. (Korea) (Sept.-San Diego) Art Stavovich, 805 Ramblewood Dr., Anaheim, CA 92804. **21880**

774th TD Bn. (Oct.-Chattanooga, TN) Frank Kerzner, Box 352, Fisher Rd., Stamford, NY 12167. **15852**

81st Chemical Mtr. Bn. (Sept.-Toledo, OH) Edward

Please turn page

VETNET'S MESSAGE BOARD

	ARMY VNO	NAVY VNO	AIR/ARMY AIR FORCES VNO	MARINES VNO	COASTGUARD/ OTHERS VNO
WWI	21589	21590	21591	21593	21594
WWII	21549	21550	21551	21553	21581
KOREA	21554	21555	21557	21558	21582
VIETNAM	21559	21561	21562	21563	21583
GRANADA	21565	21566	21567	21569	21585
PANAMA	21570	21571	21573	21574	21586
PERSIAN GULF	21575	21577	21578	21579	21587

Tiberio, 259 Pumpkin Hill, New Milford, CT 06776. 16486

842nd Ord. Depot Co. (Sept-Rapid City, SD) Jess Weiberg, Rt. 1, Box 12, Bigelow, MO 64425. 11153

86th Inf., 1 Co. (Oct.-Virginia Beach, VA) Joseph Dash, 2205 Edmondson, Baltimore, MD 21228. 20692

880th FA Bn., 69th Div., C Btry. (Sept.-Cape May, NJ) F.C. Eley, 3042 Rightmire Blvd., Columbus, OH 45221. 21881

91st Chem. Mtr. Bn. (Oct.-Atlanta) James McCabe, Box 2450, Peachtree City, GA 30269. 16395

9th FA Bn., 3rd Inf. Div. (Sept.-Owatonna, MN) Ray Hall, 1319 Bigelow, Owatonna, MN 55060. 21850

9th Inf. Div. Assn. - (WWII) (Sept-Milwaukee) Dan Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087. 11124

9th Inf. Div., Texas/Southwest Chapter (Aug.-Arlington, TX) Pete Rice Jr., Rt. 2, Box 258, Kaufman, TX 75142. 21851

Camp Lockett-Mitchell Convalescent Hospital (WWII) (Oct.-Campo, CA) James Hinds, Box 394, Campo, CA 91906. 21883

Counter Intelligence Corps (February 1992-Orlando, FL) Dick Snyder, 1567 Heather Way, Kissimmee, FL 34744. 11226

Frenchay Hospital, England - (52nd/100th/117th/298th Gen. Hospitals) (July 1992-Bristol, England) Brenda Eckard, Box 5145, Hickory, NC 28613. 11199

U.S. Army Rangers Assn. (Oct.-Columbus, GA) USARA, Box 669, Columbus, GA 31902. 21884

Navy

107th Seabees (Sept.-San Antonio) Frank Glover, Box 287, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455. 18651

57th Seabees (1942-45) (Oct.-Daytona Beach, FL) Woodrow Skipper, 3221 Odell School Rd., Harrisburg, NC 28075. 18026

70th Seabee Bn., 1005th/1006th Dets., 578th/579th CBMs (Aug-Livonia, MI) George Kiba, 78 Aberdeen Cir., Leesburg, FL 34788. 11130

AATC (Sept.-Branson, MO) Arthur King, 2916 Tiffin Ave., Des Moines, IA 50317. 21896

Amphib Base, Ft. Pierce/Attack Boat Flot. (WWII) (Nov.-Ft. Pierce, FL) Ed Brisbois, Box 3328, Ft. Pierce, FL 34948. 21897

CAG-16 (WWII) (Nov.-Pensacola, FL) W.J. Ruefle, 3837 W. Madura Rd., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561. 21898

CASU-F-20 (Sept.-Atlanta) Bob Rittenhouse, 1126 Elmone Dr., Borger, TX 79007. 18681

DESRON-8/USS Wainwright/Trippe/Buck/Rhind/Bristol (WWII) (Sept.-Washington, DC) Harry Cook, 868 Hopwood Ln., Virginia Beach, VA 23455. 18171

LITIS Staff, NAS Atlanta (Sept.-Washington, DC) Lois Swinson, 603 Longview Ct. NE., Vienna, VA 22180-3637. 21899

NAS New York - (Marines included) (Oct.-Ft. Lauderdale, FL) H.J. Marcus, Box 63-5141, Margate, FL 33063. 17504

NAS NOLA - (Oct.-) E. M. St. Romain, 7511 Hansbrough Ave., New Orleans, LA 70127. 11251

Navy MATS VRS - (VR-3/6/7/8/22 & NATWPAC) (Nov.-Orlando, FL) Monte Umphress, 1348 Hanchett Ave., San Jose, CA 95126. 11126

Navy Section Base, Southport, NC (1942-43) (July 1992-Southport, NC) Frank Pischera, 772 Greenfield Dr., Port Orange, FL 32119. 21903

Opticalmen/Instrumentmen (Fall 1992-Williamsburg, VA) D.R. Large, 189 Herndon Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23426. 14636

Port Lytaut Radar Hill - (1955-57) (Sept-Bosco Bell, WI) Bob Rhoades, 504 N. Spring St., Odon, IN 47562. 11174

ROTC Class June 1946, U of New Mexico (Oct.-Albuquerque, NM) Dick Primm, 3330 Knob Hill Ct., Charlotte, NC 28210. 17847

Sampeon NTS, Unit C, Co. 122 (1944) (Sept.-Waterloo, NY) Richard Meyers, 43 Maple Ln., Monroe, NY 10950. 21901

Scouting Squadron (WWII) (1992-Pensacola, FL) A.M. Klinger, Box 30244, Mesa, AZ 85271-0244. 11213

Seabees of America (Aug.-Cleveland) Joseph Popovich, Box 291-49, Parma, OH 29149. 21902

Ship Repair Unit, Olongapo, Subic Bay (WWII) (Oct.-Indianapolis) Jack Shaneey, 1353 Skylark Dr., Troy, OH 45373-1621. 21900

Special Augmented Hospital 3 (WWII) (Oct.-Charleston, WV) Darrell Riley, Box 8248, Charleston, WV 25302. 21904

USN Armed Guard (Oct.-Little Creek, VA) Robert Burrill, 5320 Brockie St., Virginia Beach, VA 23464. 21905

USN Armed Guard (Sept.-) M.M. Carlton, 8801 Benton St., Lincoln, NE 68507. 21908

USS Arenac APA-128 (Sept.-Cedar Rapids, IA) Joe

Novotny, Rt. 1, Box 128, Swisher, IA 52338. 21148

USS Baham (Sept-Stroudsburg, PA) Albert Kuenzler, Rt. 5, Box 5192, Newton, NJ 07860. 11181

USS Basilan AG-68, SRU (Oct-St. Louis) Francis Rey, 1007 Paula Dr., Arnold, MO 63010. 11177

USS Bell DD-587 (Oct.-Baton Rouge, LA) Ed Glenn, 1056 Gen. George Patton Rd., Nashville, TN 37221. 18092

USS Benewah APB-35 - (Vietnam/1967-68) (Oct-Hickory, NC) A.B. Moore, Rt. 5, Box 499, Conover, NC 28613. 11135

USS Blackhawk AO-9 (BADRA) - (Including assigned DDs) (Sept-Sacramento) G.H. Mason, 2212 122nd Ave. E., Puyallup, WA 98372. 11087

USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA-31 - Including air groups (Aug.-Des Moines, IA) Jerry Miller, 1821 21st, Rock Island, IL 61204. 18065

USS Brooklyn CL-40 (Sept-Long Beach, CA) Alford Wells, 429 Appian Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23452. 11168

USS Butler DD-636/DMS-29 (Oct-Norfolk, VA) Joseph Walsh, 3932 Indian River Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456. 11120

USS Carter Hall LSD-3 (Nov.-Phoenix, AZ) Lillian Lukich, Box 255, Graham, TX 76046. 21839

USS Castor AKS-1 (April 1992-Las Vegas) Walt Whittemore, 2245 Cascade St., Las Vegas, NV 89122. 11204

USS Cavalla SS-244 (Oct.-San Antonio) Woodrow Wert, 58-53 Heise Rd. N., Elma, WA 98541. 21907

USS Chemung AO-30 (Sept.-Nashville, TN) Charles Webb, 1421 Heritage Landing Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37405. 18077

USS Cincinnati CL-6 (Sept.-Bloomington, MN) Georgie Christmas, 4510 Nantucket Blvd., #7, Youngstown, OH 44515. 17887

USS Cofer DE-208/APD-62 (Sept.-Sparks, NV) Bob Linder, 2070 Bradbury St., Medford, OR 97504. 21137

USS Dickens APA-161 - (WWII) (February 1992-Biloxi, MS) Norman Rowe, 305 N. Brent St., Ventura, CA 93003. 11215

USS Eberle DD-430 (Oct-Charleston, SC) Robert McKenzie, 309 Catawba Ave., Newfield, NJ 08344. 11125

USS Elizabeth C. Stanton AP-69 (Sept.-Norfolk, VA) Sherman Dickson, 802 Christine St., Houston, TX 77017-4822. 18151

USS Gilligan DE-508 (Nov.-Carmel, CA) W.K. Stewart, 26415 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Carmel, CA 93923. 21908

USS Gladiator AM-319 (Sept.-Nashville, TN) Don Westerlund, 4708 E. Florian Cir., Mesa, AZ 85206. 21909

USS Gold Star AG-12 (Nov.-Las Vegas) Richard McKinnis, 256 Arrow Way, Myrtle Creek, OR 97457. 18532

USS Henry A. Wiley DM-29 (April 1992-Virginia Beach, VA) W.A. Zinzow, 2277 Minneola Rd., Clearwater, FL 34624. 11228

USS Hilary P. Jones DD-427 (Sept-Asheville, NC) W.A. Richardson, 109 Hale St., Beverly, MA 01915. 11162

USS Hue City CG-66 Commissioning (Marines included) (Sept.-Pascagoula, MS) Pat Shea, Box 7003, Pascagoula, MS 39568. 21910

USS Ingraham DD-694/FFG-61 (May 1992-Charleston, SC) Arthur Jones, 1817 W. Main, Massillon, OH 44647. 11203

USS James O'Hara APA-90 (Apr.-Fort Myers, FL) Jerry Shuett, 15130 N. Peeble Ln., Fort Myers, FL 33912. 18557

USS John Paul Jones DD-932/DDG-32 (Summer 1992-) J.L. Laseter, 101 St. Andrews Dr., Ocean Springs, MS 39564. 11231

USS John Q. Roberts APD-94 (Aug-Las Vegas) Ted Van Epps, 410 N. Main St., Dodgeville, WI 53533. 11133

USS Key West PF-17 (Nov.-Charleston, SC) Vince Positan, 20 Gregory Rd., Springfield, NJ 07081. 21837

USS LCI (L) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 32, 33, 35, 75, 193,

209, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 229, 231, 232, 238 (March 1992-Las Vegas) Paul Carter, 402 S. Lucas St., Iowa City, IA 52240. 11232

USS LCI-23 (July 1992-Dimondale, MI) Vaughn Snook, 4341 Huettel Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. 11211

USS LCS (L) 101 (Sept.-Jacksonville, FL) Anthony Makitra Sr., Rt. 1, Box 57, Bath, NY 14810. 11134

USS LCS (L) 124 (WWII) Sept-Jacksonville, FL) J.W. Farmer, Box 429, Bowling Green, VA 22427. 21952

USS LCS (L) 40 (Sept.-Jacksonville, FL) Cliff Brafford, 131 E. Seneca, Des Moines, IA 50313. 21911

USS Lenawee APA-195 (Aug-San Diego) C. Cremer, 443 Linden St., Morgantown, WV 26506. 11249

USS LSM-215 (Oct.-St. Louis) Roy Meyer, 1032 Parkview Dr., Hamilton, MT 59840. 17536

USS LST-1027/569 (Oct.-Seekonk, MA) Nat Collura, 437 N. MacQuester Pkwy., Mt. Vernon, NY 10552-2808. 21312

USS LST-339 (May 1992-Myrtle Beach, SC) D.M. Shropshire, Rt. 1, Box 29, Eden, NC 27288. 11194

USS LST-498 (Oct.-Newport News, VA) Charles Dornier, 208 Old Lakeside Dr., Grafton, VA 23692. 17834

USS LST-5 (Oct-Myrtle Beach, SC) Bill Lester, 204 B Longwood Lane, Conway, SC 29526. 11157

USS LST-503 (Sept.-New Orleans) John C. Morris, Rt. 2, Box 40, Monticello, IL 61856. 18332

USS LST-656 (Oct-Eutawville, SC) Francis Antley, Lot 82, Eutaw Springs, Eutawville, SC 29048. 21989

USS LST-743 (Sept-New Orleans) Lester Parker, 22136 Avenue Morelos, Woodland Hills, CA 91364. 11145

USS LST-746 (1992-Norfolk, VA) Kenneth Gorrick, 416 E. Fort Ave., Baltimore, MD 21230. 11195

USS LST-781 (Sept.-Canton, OH) Al Michael, 4161 Bel Air Dr. NW, Canton, OH 44718. 18217

USS Macon CA-132 (May 1992-Boston) John Amicone, 588 Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester, MA 02124. 11212

USS McCaffery DD-860 (April 1992-Jacksonville, FL) Edward Crowell, 3789 Eunice Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32250. 11214

USS Mertz DD-691 (Sept.-Charleston, SC) Frank Hayden, 891 Westminster Dr. N., Vincentown, NJ 08088. 17470

USS Montrose APA/LPA-212 (Oct-Gettysburg, PA) Robert Funt, 510 Rake Factory Rd., Biglerville, PA 17307. 11192

USS Mount Olympus AGC-8 (Oct.-Cocoa Beach, FL) Howard Chalson, 5975 Adele St., Cocoa, FL 32927. 21912

USS Mountrail APA-213 (July 1992-Pensacola, FL) Genie Walker, 7994 Brown Bridge Rd., Highland, MD 20777. 11218

USS O'Bannon DD/DDD-450 (Sept-Nashville, TN) Robert Martin, 21613 137th Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375. 11143

USS Okinawa LPH-3 (Jan-Palm Beach City, FL) W.T. Brown, Navy Avn. Supply Office, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111. 11207

USS Ommaney Bay CVE-79 Assn. (April 1992-San Antonio) Lawrence FitzGerald, 3602 S. Parker St., San Pedro, CA 90731. 11222

USS PC-490 (Sept.-Dayton, OH) Oscar Fisher, 5694 Sherwood Forest Dr., Akron, OH 44319. 17861

USS PC-570 (March 1992-Cincinnati) R.D. McLaughlin, 5631 Muddy Creek Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45238. 11196

USS PC-619 (Apr.-Charleston, SC) Ray Goin, 1 Concord Pl., Morris Plains, NJ 07950. 21913

USS Randall APA-224 (Sept-Amarillo, TX) John Walsh, 70-12 60 Ln., Ridgewood QNS, NY 11385. 11144

USS Renshaw DD/DDE-499 (Oct-Jersey City, NJ) Harold Taylor, 190 Fairview Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07304. 11183

USS Rocky Mount AGC-3 - (Army/Marines/wounded personnel included) (Oct.-Omaha, NE) John Vreeland, 3710 Armstrong St., San Diego, CA 92111. 18380

USS Rogers DD/DDR-876 (Oct-Cleveland) George Eichenberg, 1157 East Miner Rd., Mayfield Hts., OH 44124. 11123

USS Rutland PA-1992 - (Beach Bn./1944-45) (October 1992-Oceanside, CA) Donald Williams, 2012 Joanne Ln., Champaign, IL 61821. 11208

USS San Francisco CA-38 (Sept.-Chicago) Ed Wittler, Box 5206, Clearlake, CA 95422. 17805

USS SC-1280 (WWII) (July-Houston) Bob Johnson, Box 1444, Pasadena, TX 77502. 21914

USS Schmitt (May-Buffalo, NY) John Daleo, 25 Rebecca Pk., Buffalo, NY 14207. 18188

USS Sepulge AO-20 (Oct.-Nashville, TN) Don Westerlund, 4708 E. Florian Cir., Mesa, AZ 85206. 18183

USS Shemrock Bay CVE-84 (Oct.-Columbus, OH) Fred Griggs, 1989 Dandy Rd., Dallas, GA 30132. 18063

USS Shellkopf AVP-52 (Aug.-Kansas City, MO) Lee Webb, 4419 Cambridge Ct., Independence, MO 65055. 21915

USS Shenandoah AD-26 (Sept.-Chicago) Bob Dahike, 6208 W. 83rd Pl., Burbank, IL 60459. 14480

USS Sherburne APA-205 (June 1992-Kansas City, MO) Bob Larrick, 430 N.E. 61st Terr., Kansas City, MO 64118. 11197

USS Sproeton DD/DDE-577 (Spring 1992-Chicago area) J.M. Callaghan, 14459 River Beach Dr., C-124, Port Charlotte, FL 33953. 11202

USS Sylvan AFS-2 - (1965-70) (July 1992-Indianapolis) John Pierce, 6631 Holloway Ln., Lansing, MI 48917. 11206

USS Tenner AGS-15 (June 1992-Kansas City, MO) Donald Morse, 3495 E. Dansville Rd., Dansville, MI 48819. 10261

USS Tettneil DD-125/APD-19 (Sept-St. Paul, MN) Anthony De Marco, 31 Buxton Ct., Vincentown, NJ 08088. 11173

USS Valencia AKA-81 (Nov-Williamsburg, VA) Leonard Harper, 4194 Medway Ave., Columbus, OH 43213. 11149

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USS Van Valkenburgh DD-656 (Oct.-Baton Rouge, LA) Bill Graham, 3124 W. Campbell Rd., Lakeland, FL 33809. 18521

USS Waldron DD-699 (Sept.-Norfolk, VA) Joseph Walsh, 3932 Indian River Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456. 11119

USS West Point AP-23 (WWII) (Sept.-Seattle) John Daniel, 3728 S. Fuller, Independence, MO 64052. 21916

USS Wrangell AE-12 Assn. (Sept.-Nashville, TN) Ralph Gaul, HCR 63, Box 32, Mifflintown, PA 17059. 21917

USS Wren DD-568 (Oct.-Buffalo, NY) John Powell, 4 Donald Dr., Middletown, RI 02840. 11223

VC-9 - (WWII) (Oct.-Pensacola, FL) James Perkins, 10250 Valle Dr., Tampa, FL 33612. 11256

VRF-32/FSU Dets. (June-Ft. Worth, TX) Rayburn Reid, 1015 W. 2nd St., Weiser, ID 83672. 21918

Air Force

100th Air Service Sq. (Oct.-Oshkosh, WI) Fred Swinner-ton, 292 Orange Ave., Ashland, OR 97520. 21844

11th Bomb Grp., (H) Assoc. (Dec.-Honolulu) Robert May, Box 637, Seffner, FL 33584. 15172

19th Supply Sq., 19th Air Depot Grp. (Oct.-Gallipolis, OH) Mrs. C.E. Johnson, 3338 St. Rt. 141, Gallipolis, OH 45631. 11129

1st/2nd/3rd & 4th Strategic Support Sqs. (Oct.-El Paso, TX) Ray Rote, 7741 N. 16th Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85021. 21840

330 Bomb Grp. (VH) (Sept.-Norfolk, VA) Robert Filsch-el, 725 Fairview Dr., Carlisle, OH 45005. 21842

339th Ftr. Grp., 8th AF (WWII) (Sept.-Cincinnati) Chet Malarz, 2405 Kings Point Dr., Atlanta, GA 30338. 21845

349th Air Engr. Sq., 86th Air Service Grp. (Oct.-Nashville, TN) Franklin Watson, 2521 18th St., Columbus, IN 47201. 21846

38th Repair Sq., ADG (Oct.-Owensboro, KY) Charles Sulkala, 808 Neponset St., Norwood, ME 02062. 21841

406th Ftr. Sq., 371st Ftr. Grp., 9th AF (Oct.-Myrtle Beach, SC) Robert Farley, 117 S. Greene St., Boone, IA 50036. 21847

40th Bomb Grp./28th Service Outfit - (WWII) (Oct.-Orlando, FL) Mrs. Flo Mallory, Box 9252, Treasure Island, FL 33740. 11128

444th Ftr. Inter. Sq. (Oct.-North Charleston, SC) Wallace Mitchell, 535 Mimosa Rd., Sumter, SC 29150. 10045

47th Bomb Grp. Assn. (Sept.-Seattle) Costa Chalas, 67 Trapelo Rd., Belmont, MA 02178. 21843

85th Bomb Sq. (Aug.-Las Vegas) Richard McCormick, 307 S. Meridian, Greenwood, IN 46143. 15164

900th Signal Depot Avn. Co. (Sept.-Nashville, TN) Emmett McKay, 117 Emerald Lake Dr., Dothan, AL 36303. 11180

96th Bomb Grp. Assn. (Sept.-New Orleans) Thomas Thomas, 1607 E. Willow Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187. 21476

Flight Five, Auguatana College, IL - (1943) (Oct.-Rock Island, IL) G. Lankton, 204 Kentucky, Park Forest, IL 60466. 11225

Pilot Claas 52-G (October 1992-Destin, FL) Jack Gilliland, Box 1472, Pensacola Beach, FL 32562. 11210

Pilot Claas 51-A (May 1992-Madeira Beach, FL) Clem Meyer, 5401 98th Way, St. Petersburg, FL 33708. 11219

Army Air Forces

1057th QM Co., 323rd Serv. Grp. (Oct.-Nashville, TN) Charles Kitchin, 236 Gibson Ave., Philadelphia, PA 18974. 21889

1113th QM (Sept.-Amana Colonies, IA) Lloyd Rice, Piper City, IL 60959. 21890

18th Air Dpt. Grp., HQ&HQ Sq. (Oct.-Dayton, OH) Wayne Lasinski, 8000 W. Catherine Ave., Norwood Park Twp., IL 60858. 18932

23rd Acad. Sq., AAF Tech. School Sqa. (1942-46) (Sept.-Sioux Falls, SD) Anthony Slati, 148 Moorefield St., Providence, RI 02909. 21888

312th Dpt. Repair Sq. (Sept.-Atlantic City, NJ) J.B. Monzella, 785 Belwood Cir., Fairfield, AL 35064. 15130

338th Air Service Sq. (Oct.-Pittsburgh, PA) Gilea Lakeman, 555 Robert A. Taft Ln., Cincinnati, OH 45244. 20278

339th Service Sq. (Oct.-Niagara Falls) Stanley Stachowaki, 2030 Clinton St., Buffalo, NY 14208. 18791

452nd Bomb Grp. Assn. (Oct.-Las Vegas) John Witte, 40 South 18th St., Richmond, IN 47374. 11142

45th Air Depot Grp. - Including attached units (Oct.-Fayetteville, NC) Charles Guemelata, 119 Aigler Blvd., Bellevue, OH 44811. 11164

460th Bomb Grp. Assn. (Oct.-Las Vegas) Robert Cutler, 19135 U.S. Hwy. 19, #A16, Clearwater, FL 34624. 16900

463rd Bomb Grp., 15th Wing, 15th AAF (Nov.-Orlando, FL) Eugene Parker, Rt. 3, Box 188, New Matamoras, OH 45767. 16835

466th Bomb Grp. Assn. (Sept.-New Orleans) Lou Loevsy, 16 Hamilton Dr. E., North Caldwell, NJ 07006. 21888

482nd Bomb Grp., 36th/812th/813th/814th Bomb Sqs., (England/WWII) (Sept.-New Orleans) Dennis Scanlan Jr., 1 Scanlan Plaza, St. Paul, MN 55107. 16966

49th Trp. Carrier Sq., 313th Trp. Carrier Grp. (Sept.-Denver) Elmer Munkvold, 8922 Cherry Ave., River Grove, IL 60171. 11198

4th Tow Target Sq., Liberty Field, GA (Oct.-New Orleans) Charlie McCown, Box 1418, Tullahoma, TN 37388. 21885

506th Ftr. Grp., 457th/458th/462nd Sqs. - (WWII) (April 1992-Las Vegas) John Grant, 926 Jamestown Ave., Indian Harbor Beach, FL 32937. 11200

55th Weather Recon. Sq., 20th AF (WWII) (Oct.-Dayton, OH) Paul Wilch, 3106 Sheldon Rd., Middletown, OH 45042. 16863

56th Air Depot Grp. - (Guam) (May 1992-Baltimore) Edward Brzozowski, 3409 Hudson St., Baltimore, MD 21224. 11221

821st Bombardment Sq. - (Training Cadre/Selfridge & Godman Fields) (Oct.-Kansas City, MO) Darrel Ayler, 7704 E. 90th St., Kansas City, MO 64138. 11147

93rd Ftr. Sq., 81st Ftr. Grp. (Oct.-Orlando, FL) John Dougherty, 201 Bartram Ln., Ocean City, NJ 08226. 21887

Aviation Cadets to Basic Trng Center #12, Amarillo - (1944/via Fort Sheridan) (May 1992-Albuquerque, NM) Eugene Kulczynski, 6101 Sequoia Rd. N.W., C22, Albuquerque, NM 87120. 11234

Camp Cooke (1941-46) (Oct.-Vandenberg AFB, CA) Jeffrey Geiger, WSMC/HO, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437. 21838

Ocala Primary Flying School (Oct.-Ocala, FL) Robert Thomas, 1343 SE 14th St., Ocala, FL 32671. 21891

PB4Y1/PB4Y2 Privateer Sqs. (Aug.-Santa Clara, CA) Ronald Sathre, 31262 San Andreas Dr., Union City, CA 94587. 21892

Coast Guard

USCGC Alexander Hamilton (Oct.-) Tom Mullings, 8002 Aladdin Dr., Laurel, MD 20723. 20295

USCGC Woodbine (Aug.-Grand Haven, MI) John Krueger, 725 Hubbard NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505. 17032

USS Gen. W.P. Richardson AP-118 - (WWII) (Sept.-New Orleans) Harry Parker, Box 732, New Paltz, NY 12561. 11170

Marines

1st Bn., 3rd Marines - (1968-69) (July 1992-San Diego) Bill Krueger, 7622 Highland St., Springfield, VA 22150. 11217

1st Scout/1st Recon Co., 1st MarDiv. (WWII) (Oct.-St. Louis) John Hamilton, 1 South Pine St., Niantic, CT 06357. 21893

4th Bn., 12th Marines, Kilo Co. - (Vietnam/1965-69) (July 1992-San Diego) Hal Sullivan, 19 Caldwell Dr., New Milford, CT 06776. 11220

5th Field/Service Depot, Guam (Mar.-Beaufort, SC) Lee Edwards, 9900 Geneva Ave. S., St. Paul Park, MN 55071. 14347

9th Defense/9th AAA Bns. (WWII) (Sept.-New Orleans) William Sorensen, 283 First Ave., Stratford, CT 06497. 17143

Marine Det., USS Saratoga CV-3/60 (Oct.-Valley Forge, PA) Arnold Hall, 102 Halcyon Rd., Charlestown, IN 47111. 11151

Marine Det., Bermuda - (1953-57) (Summer 1993-New Orleans) Michael Capochiano, 35-41 80th St., Apt. 31, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. 11227

Parria Island Dia - (WWII) (Nov.-Parris Island, SC) Tiny Renaker, 1307 21st St., Port Huron, MI 48060. 11163

Parria Island, SC - (Summer of '48) (1992-) Joe Brancati, 39 Roxton Rd., Plainview, NY 11803. 11205

VMB-413 (WWII) (Oct.-San Francisco) Tommy Thomas, Box 490, Panama City, FL 32402. 21041

VMB-433 (WWII) (Oct.-San Antonio) Ken Will, 305 Oakwood Blvd., New Braunfels, TX 78130. 17118

VMD-154 - (Photographic) (Oct.-Las Vegas) Chester Wood, 305 S. Harwood, Orange, CA 92666. 11175

Miscellaneous

295th JASCO (Sept.-Indianapolis) James Lentz, 7432 Audubon Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46250. 11193

Association of Retired Military Musicians (Sept.-Columbus, GA) Fred Stearns, 6114 Westbrook Dr., Columbus, GA 31909. 21895

COUNTERPARTS (Southeast Asia advisors) (Mar.-Louisville, KY) Adjutant COUNTERPARTS, Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804. 17264

Marine Embassy, Paris (1966-69) (Aug. 1992-Breezewood, PA) Clark Mayer, 554 Pangborn Blvd., Hagerstown, MD 21740. 21894

Minnesota Civil Air Patrol (April 1992-) Thomas O'Conner, 16515 Frazer Way, Rosemount, MN 55068. 11233

LET'S GET TOGETHER

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Army

1019th Engr. TW/BR Co. (WWII) Charles Fankboner, Box 2076, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-2076. 21927

187th Inf., 101st ABN, 3rd Bn., Echo Co. Vietnam (1970-71) Bobby Woodfin, 4004 Williamsburg Dr., Hopewell, VA 23860. 21920

191st Assault Helicopter Co. (1967-69), Troy McKenna, 22 Flanagan Rd., Sterling, MA 01564. 21991

21st/34th Rgts., 24th Div., E,F,G,H,I,K,L,M Cos. C.L. Honolulu, 1412 Reed St., Malvern, AR 72104. 11154

22nd Inf., 4th Inf. Div., Rgt. HQ Co. (1950-52) James Speicher, 382 Schuyler Ave., Kingston, PA 18704. 21921

23rd Inf. Rgt. (1950-53) Andy Anderson, 2401 E LaJolla Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282. 21922

3259th Signal Service Co. Harry Weyher, 750 Seventh Ave., 26th Fl., New York, NY 10019. 21928

3280th Ord. Base Depot Co. Daniel Addis, 1040 Piedmont Pl., Bellingham, WA 98226-2501. 21929

390th Rgt., 98th Div., M Co. (1942-46) Raymond Clark, 306 E. Linden St., Rome, NY 13440. 21925

407th FA Grp., HQ & HQ Btry., 9th Army (WWII) Guy Hall, 24 Pritchard Ave., Apt. Cl, Aberdeen, MD 21001. 11188

439th Engrs., C Co. (1951-53) Russ Zicht, Box 45, Stanton, NE 68779. 11136

475th Engr. Maint. Co. Jay Hoffer, Box 158, Norvelt, PA 15674. 21926

563rd Ord. Hm (TK) Co. (WWII) Paul Shannon, Rt. 3, Box 9, New Albany, MS 38652. 20135

68th VFID, Tokyo QM Depot Jim Noblitt, 312 McBrien Rd., #225, Chattanooga, TN 37411. 21923

716th MP (Vietnam) Duane Hursey, Rt. 1, Box 167, Shelby, IA 51570. 14163

SBS-OISE Sections (WWII Europe) Robert Lehmann, Box 431, Natchez, MS 39121-0431. 21930

USFAO-K (1972-76) Larry Majors, 941 Frontier Dr., Henderson, KY 42420. 21931

Navy

Amphibious Force Flagship Assn. Donald Shreeves, 315 W. Main, Princeton, MO 64673. 11187

ARU 145 (Guadalcanal/1943-44) John Slason, 727 62nd, San Diego, CA 92114. 21941

Band 192 Thomas Jackson, 2845 Coleman Rd., Annis-ton, AL 36201. 21947

Boot Camp Co. 3556, NTC Bainbridge (1944) James McEntee, 1606 Monmouth Pl. W., Richmond, VA 23233. 21942

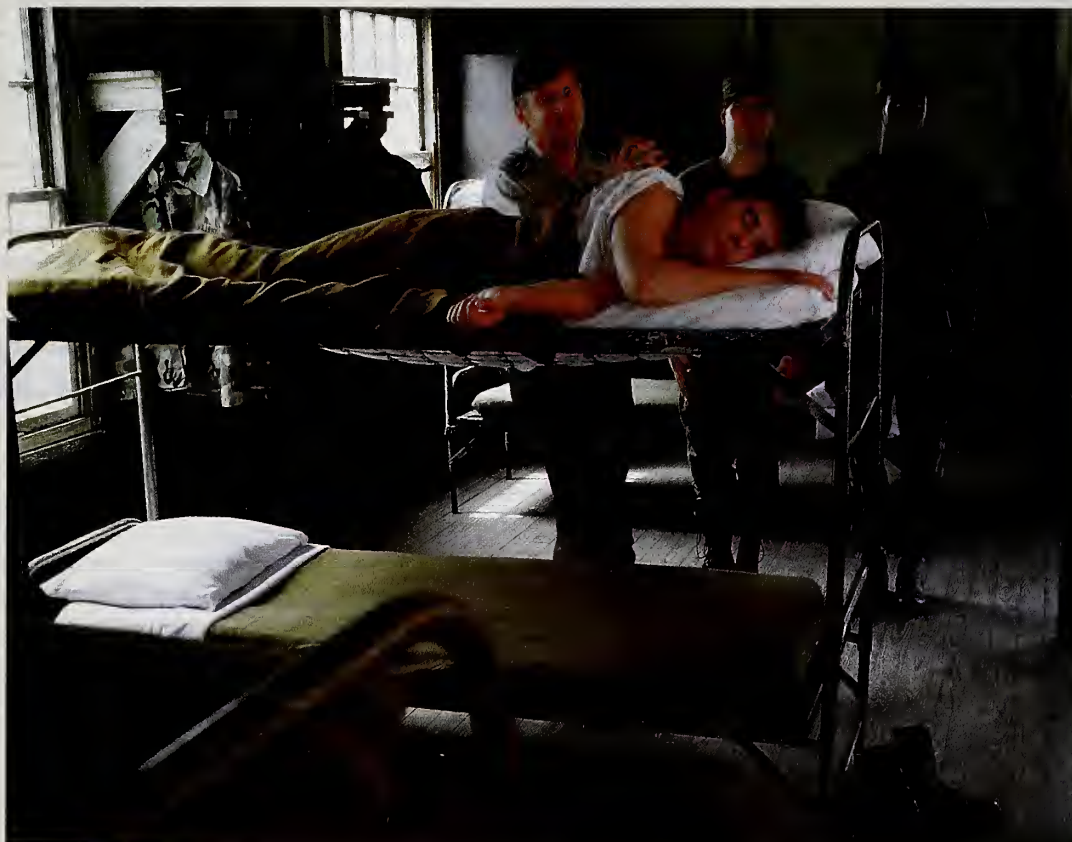
Boot Camp Co. 353, NTC San Diego (1957) D.G. Johnson, 8521 Cherrycreek Dr., Centerville, OH 45458. 21943

Boot Camp Co. 562, NTC San Diego (1948) John Sheskey, 2221 Rowley Ave., Madison, WI 53705. 21944

FASRON-3, NAS Norfolk (1955-57) John Reeves, Rt. 7, Box 247, Jonesboro, AR 72401. 21945

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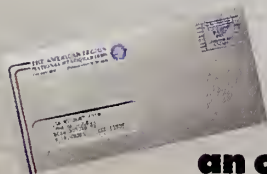
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Gene Tunney Physical Fitness Program, Squads IV/V/VI (BM Rating) James Caporiccio, 1347 Eastview Dr., Waukegan, IL 60085. 21939

LCI (G) Grp. 16 Robert Schrader, 2137 Minute Ct., Stone Mountain, GA 30087. 11138

NAAB Dartmouth, England Carl Kaupp, Rt. 2, Box 125, Gregory, SD 57533. 21946

USS Arneb AKA-56 Jerry Phillips, 5320 Clair St., Jackson, MS 39206. 21948

USS Barataria AVP-33 Ralph Thornton, 202 Kelly St., Charles City, IA 50616. 21949

USS Dupage APA-41 (WWII) Clarence Roberts, 213 Highland Ave., Edgefield, SC 29824. 21950

USS Gen. Omar Bundy APA-152 William Cooper, Box 2246, Twin Falls, ID 83303. 14546

USS Glennon DD-840 (1951-55) George Schultz, 125 Railroad Ave., Norwood, NJ 07648. 11190

USS Highland APA-119 Henry Sampley, 15615 Harvest, Norwalk, CA 90650. 21951

USS LSM-138 G.F. Brazill, 1524 SE 2nd St., #6, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301. 21953

USS LSM-179 (WWII) Richard Terice, 2028 Kona Dr., Holiday, FL 34691. 21954

USS LST-307 Harry McCoy, 266 Warren Way, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405. 21955

USS LST-587 John Lahey, 110 Cloverdale Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308. 21960

USS Maui ARG-8 Jack Shanasy, 1353 Skylark Dr., Troy, OH 45373-1621. 21961

USS McCall DD-400 Ted Zygadlo, 22770 S. Tamiami Trail, #200, Estero, FL 33928. 11156

USS Meriwether APA-203 (WWII/including boat group, Beach Bn.) Les Hinkley, 23 Basildon Dr., Bella Vista, AR 72714. 21269

USS Monssen DD-436 Chester Thomason, 5411 Hanna St., San Diego, CA 92105. 11186

USS Passumpsic AO-107 James McEntee, 1606 Monmouth Pl. W., Richmond, VA 23233. 21962

USS SC-1317/USS SC-1364 Max Ferree, Court Square, Wilkesboro, NC 28697. 11135

USS Spector AM-306 Bennie Saindon, 10222 W. Ida, #240, Littleton, CO 80127. 11155

USS Storm King APA-171 James Corcoran, 936 Riverside Dr., Holly Hill, FL 32117. 21963

USS Surfbird ADG-383 R.W. Grier, 401 W. 8th St., Louisville, GA 30434. 21964

USS Ute ATF-76 R.N. Austin Jr., Box 40, Weston's Mills, NY 14788-0040. 21965

USS Whitehurst DE-634 (1950-52) Clarence Martin, Winnie Ave., Box 315, Ravena, NY 12143. 21966

USS Whitley AKA-91 (1944-54) Jim Stoltenberg, 1051 Site Dr., #26, Brea, CA 92621. 21967

USS YMS-332 (WWII) Russell Lewis, 13460 Hwy. 8 Business, #7, Lakeside, CA 92040. 21969

USS YMS-382 Roger Oilschlager, 940 2nd St., Port Edwards, WI 54469. 21970

VPB-71 J.P. Malone, 8200 Boca Ciega Dr., St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706. 11184

YFNB-21/YRBM-16 Richard Valentine, 9980 Ulmertown Rd., #394, Largo, FL 34641. 11189

Air Force

439th Air Serv. Grp. Edward Tokasz, 70 Meadowbrook Pkwy., Buffalo, NY 14206. 21919

7366th Radar Eval. Sq., 104th/15th Radar Cal. Flts. Joe Allman, 305 Davis St., Landis, NC 28088. 11185

Marines

Camp Matthews Rifle Range, San Diego (1951-52) Milton Zarbok, 1622 Quinlan Ave. S., Lakeland, MN 55043. 21937

Army Air Forces

126th Signal Radio Int. Co. Bob Drury, Box 182, Archie, MO 64725. 21932

349th Troop Carrier Grp., HQ Sq. (WWII) Vernon Reising, 940 MacArthur St., Jasper, IN 47546. 21933

353 CTD/Class 43-C-7, Denver U. Bill Davis, 38270 Calaveras Rd., Temecula, CA 92390. 21934

451st Bomb. Grp. (H)/80th Service Sq. Robert Karstensen, 1032 S. State St., Marengo, IL 60152. 16889

480th Serv. Sq., 63rd Serv. Grp., 5th AF (WWII) Herbert Fridley, Rt. 5, Box 146, Danville, PA 17821. 21935

844th Bomb Sq., (LH) 489th Bomb Grp. Ralph Spaziani, 91 Beal St., Rockland, MA 02370. 21936

Coast Guard

USCG Army Manning Det. (Y-3 and others/WWII) John Weddel, 2309 SE Balboa Dr., Vancouver, WA 98684. 21940

USCGC 20/Rescue Fotilla (1944/England) Jerry Kuehl, Rt. 1, Box 225A, Deerwood, MN 56444. 21938

USCGC Sweetgum W-309 (1943-45) Karl Suelke, F-8, 201 W. Cuthbert Rd., Oaklyn, NJ 08107. 21939

Miscellaneous

MACV Advisers M. Sanchez, 6608 Baker N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109. 11137

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

William R. Oliver (1984), Edward J. Kwiatkowski (1991) Post 22, Thomaston, CT

Donald F. Stitley, Andrew Tarapchak (1991) Post 117, Palm Bay, FL

Henry M.T. Kolehmainen, Charles E. Short, David T. Viers (1980), Kenneth L. Roberts (1981), Nathan R. Roberts (1986), Richard R. Benjamin (1987), Richard C. Bolton Jr., (1988), Hugh Utterback (1990) Post 127, Lake Helen, FL

Beryl O. Roundy (1991) Post 100, Columbus Junction, IA

Arthur N. Duff (1989) Post 210, Anita, IA

Virgil Horness (1991) Post 307, Roland, IA

Louie Dell (1991) Post 659, Des Moines, IA

Robert J. Teeple (1991) Post 721, Coralville, IA

John Krans (1991) Post 390, Altona, IL

Joseph Fitzingo, James Sinkay Jr. (1990) Post 600, Chicago, IL

Melvin F. Bracht (1986), Robert J. Blair (1989) Post 794, East Alton, IL

Robert L. Hartsough, Larry D. Martin (1990) Post 243, Ligonier, IN

James A. Columbus, Patrick E. Dunlavy, Walno I. Parvianen (1990) Post 373, Baldwinville, MA

George H. Smith, Charles H. Wilson Jr. (1991) Post 413, Grand Blanc, MI

Floyd R. Holman, Lloyd W. Holman (1990) Post 170, Burnsville, MN

George A.R. Schuster (1991) Post 4, St. Louis, MO

Ronald L. Veatch (1991), Post 109, Campbell, MO

Eugene F. Gober, Wesley J. Peets Jr. (1990) Post 4, Keene, NH

Joseph L. Kelan (1990), Edward Bolson (1991) Post 166, Lakewood, NJ

Charles H. Mickel (1990) Post 286, Pine Hill, NJ

Roger T. Brashner (1991) Post 230, Sherrill, NY

Harold L. Boehnke, John A. Brody, Kenneth J. Hartel, Robert Jorgensen, Theodore R. Kraft, Gerald G. Peel, Warren J. Rehaut (1991) Post 264, Tonawanda, NY

John F. Gilbert, Meredith Valentine (1991) Post 434, Brocton, NY

Edward Griffin Sr., David R. Hart Sr., Charles La Valley, Paul Malcus, James Roberts, John C. Snow, Roy Williams, Joseph F. Zeno (1991) Post 504, Au Sable Forks, NY

Charles Sedita (1988), Henry Wagner (1989), Roger De Francesco (1990), Gary De Frank (1991) Post 529, Holley, NY

Paul J. Nichola (1991) Post 576, LeRoy, NY

R. Arthur Harmer, Nichola K. Panarites, Walter K. Swingle (1967), Robert K. Garvey (1991) Post 788, Hilton, NY

Richard N. Hastings (1991) Post 1021, Averill Park, NY

Joseph F. Briehof (1987), Cahill J. Blaney, Frederick J. Perlick (1991) Post 1302, Poughkeepsie, NY

Arthur K. Ridley (1991) Post 139, Milford, PA

Elmer S. Pickett (1991) Post 90, St. George, UT

DANGER ON TAP

Continued from page 23

during the next 30 years. What's particularly frightening is that many homeowners and farmers are not even aware of the dangers."

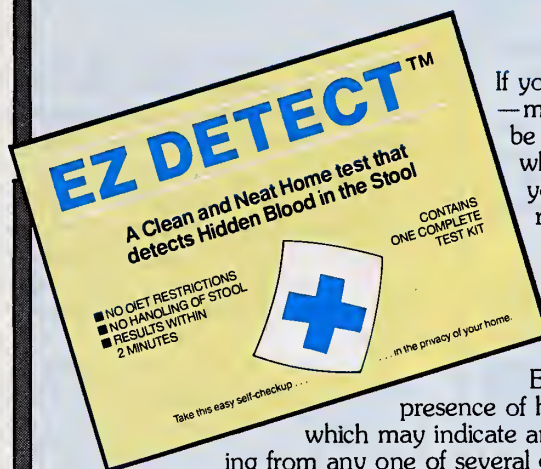
Worse news is that just because home and farm tanks are exempted from regulation does not mean they are free of liability. "If there's a leak on your property, you will be held liable for cleanup costs," warned Merriam. Ask Frank and Margaret Costanza of Patchogue, Long Island. When the tank at their 38-year-old home sprung leaks, they called in a removal crew and paid a \$3,000 bill for unearthing the tank and cleaning polluted ground in its immediate vicinity. However, that's just the start of their costs. Another \$60,000 is owed the state Department of Conservation for follow-up monitoring. "Even if you have sold the house, if the leak can be dated back to the period of your ownership, you will be held liable," said Merriam.

Is the antidote simply to ban underground storage tanks? While that's the answer in Maine, where state law calls for removal of all such tanks by October 1991, most experts insist less restrictive measures will suffice. "In many instances, underground tanks, when properly maintained, make the best sense," Merriam said. "Discover a leak early enough, before the petroleum enters ground water, and clean up typically is routine, inexpensive. That's not so if water pollution is involved. Then you've got a very, very serious problem." ☐



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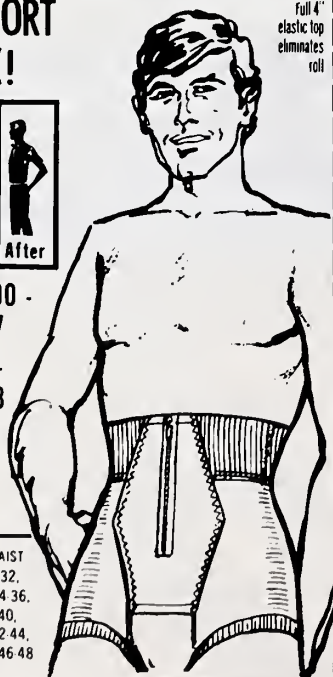
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NEWFOUNDLAND

Continued from page 31

foundland to defend strategic areas. Meanwhile, preparations were being made by the Joint Permanent Board on Defense and the U.S. War Department for selection of three major locations in Newfoundland to build U.S. bases, namely Fort Pepperrell (U.S. Army) in St. John's; the U.S. Naval Air Station at Argentia; and Stephenville on the west coast of the Island for a U.S. Army Air Force base.

The first U.S. troops to arrive on foreign soil during World War II were a contingent of 120 Marines, who arrived on the *U.S. Niblack* at Argentia on Jan. 25, 1941. Four days later, the *UST Edmund B. Alexander* sailed into St. John's harbor with 919 soldiers and 58 officers, members of the 3rd Infantry, 24th Coast Artillery and 62nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery. They came from the Second, Third and Seventh Army Corps in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. While the Marine landing at Argentia was shrouded in secrecy, the arrival of the U.S. troops in St. John's was public knowledge weeks in advance. On their arrival, they were greeted with waving flags and banners, and cheers of applause. It was classified by many at the time as the 'friendly invasion.' Everyone knew America was not at war, yet the dispatch of American Armed Forces gave everyone in Newfoundland an additional sense of security.

Beginning with the early morning arrival of the *UST Edmund B. Alexander* on Jan. 29, 1941, a lasting bond was formed between the American military and the people of Newfoundland. The bond continued to strengthen each year as construction began on American bases, and the economic and social impact was felt by the 250,000 Newfoundlanders. About 20,000 Newfoundland civilians were employed by the American military during the base construction phase, and 10,000 were permanently employed thereafter. It didn't take long for the American GIs to become accustomed to the "Newfie" way of life. Conversely, Newfoundlanders quickly learned the luxury of higher wages, were entertained by famous Hollywood personalities at U.S.O. shows on the bases, were exposed to carefree American attitudes and, above all, the value of friendship.

One of the most historic meetings in

American and Newfoundland history occurred Aug. 10, 1941, when President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met off the coast of Newfoundland, near Argentia, to discuss the Atlantic Charter. Roosevelt arrived aboard his flagship the *USS Augusta* and Churchill on the *HMS Prince of Wales*. The meeting lasted three days and, although no documents were actually signed until months later, the talks set the groundwork for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which was born years later.

As the construction of the three main bases and miscellaneous installations progressed, more U.S. troops arrived. When America entered the war on Dec. 7, 1941, more than 10,000 U.S. troops were stationed in Newfoundland. During the succeeding years up to 1976, the United States established six major bases in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as 60 other manned support installation sites at various locations throughout the province. Their mission was the strategic defense of Newfoundland. Navy operations in Argentia involved the convoy of more than 10,000 ships to England and complete air surveillance of the Atlantic for German submarines. The famous phrase "Sighted Sub, Sank Same," originated from Argentia.

The USAF, RCAF and the RAF made up the Atlantic Ferry Command and flew more than 50,000 bombers and fighters out of Gander and Goose Bay to England, Europe and Russia between 1942 and 1945. Everything that had to be supplied to the U.S. 8th Air Force in England had to pass through Newfoundland bases. By 1945, the Argentia Naval Facility aided in transporting U.S. forces from European theaters to the Pacific, or back to the United States.

To accomplish these missions, the U.S. forces established the first communications system across the island, constructed new roads and upgraded many more, improved the only railroad across Newfoundland and constructed many rail branch lines to their bases. They built new water and sewage systems and assisted the local communities in times of emergency. The Argentia Naval Air Station was the largest and most costly installation outside the continental United States. Prior to the construction of the runways there in 1941, more than 8.5 million tons of peat bog had to be removed. In 1945, the value of Argentia exceeded \$53 million. The cost of construction and operation of all 67 U.S. military installations in the province exceeded \$1 billion. By 1976, all the bases

were phased out except for the Argentina Naval Facility.

More than 100,000 U.S. troops were stationed in Newfoundland and Labrador between 1940 and 1976. Tours of duty varied from 18 months to three years. The romance of wartime made its mark on Newfoundland's history, as more than 25,000 Newfoundland women married U.S. servicemen stationed there. Even today, some 600 retired or working American ex-servicemen are living in Newfoundland and Labrador. Hundreds of Newfoundland orphaned babies were adopted by American military families. When they vacated all the bases and sites, they left behind millions of dollars in real estate. Hospitals, schools, gymnasiums, chapels, dormitories, communications, roads and a huge airport were but a few of the many former U.S. facilities in use today by the Newfoundlanders.

The Newfoundlanders also share the sorrow of several American military tragedies that occurred there. The sinking of the U.S. destroyer *USS Truxtun* and U.S. supply ship, *USS Pollux*, on Feb. 18, 1942, in a raging snowstorm off the south coast of Newfoundland resulted in the deaths of 203 sailors. But 185 seamen survived because of the heroic deeds of the brave people of the two small villages of St. Lawrence and Lawn. President Roosevelt cited all who participated in this dramatic rescue, and in 1954 the U.S. government erected a large public hospital in St. Lawrence in memory of the sailors who died in the 1942 disaster and in gratitude to the local people. The building was named the U.S. Memorial Hospital. An estimated 600 U.S. military personnel have been killed in accidents in Newfoundland and Labrador since 1941.

Fort Pepperrell Post 9 of The American Legion Department of Canada celebrates its 50th Anniversary in St. John's, Newfoundland, this year. Initially formed in February 1941, the Post received its first charter in August 1941. Members of the Post have been active during the years in community projects and most members served with the U.S. military in Newfoundland. In 1954, the Post was awarded the National Commander's Cup for the greatest paid-up membership of any American Legion Post.

Newfoundland and its Americans have shared five decades of friendliness and close relationships. One phrase you will never hear in Newfoundland is "Yank! Go Home." On the contrary, since 1940, it has been "Yank! Come back to Newfoundland." ☐

Samaritan Place: **A LIVING MEMORIAL**

Continued from page 31

Gander and the Gander Masonic Memorial Complex started a project in remembrance of the tragedy called the "Samaritan Place—Living Memorial."

The memorial is to be plain, yet spectacular, quiet and cheerful, and well maintained, and will show the love of the citizens of one country for another. The men and women who died in the Arrow crash were engaged in maintaining peace in the world. The memorial will reflect these thoughts as well as being an everlasting tribute to peace in the world.

It will be a unique complex in three distinct sections. The center block (rotunda) will be a memorial to the deceased 101st Airborne Division soldiers. The west section will be a 50-bed, chronic-care facility. The east section will be a senior citizens accommodation for 200 families and a visitors' suite for American family members who visit Gander. It is hoped the project will be completed in three years or less.

The overall cost of the memorial is estimated at \$35 million. Partial assistance for the chronic-care and seniors-accommodation facilities already has been paid for through the Canadian government and the government of Newfoundland. Funds required for construction of the center core memorial rotunda must be raised through charitable donations.

Already, several thousand dollars have been contributed by Newfoundlanders and others. Campaigns for fund-raising throughout the United States and Canada are now under way. Support of the project has been overwhelming. Letters from the White House, the Prime Minister of Canada, The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars are but a few who support Samaritan Place.

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: The Gander Masonic Memorial Complex Inc., 183-185 LeMarchant Road, P.O. Box 2002, St. John's, Nfld, Canada, A1E 3Y3. A copy of the special brochure is available upon request.

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STANDARDS

Continued from page 21

ments of marriage. This is precisely the sort of irresponsible message that encourages the tragic epidemic of out-of-wedlock births that is sweeping the country.

With its single-minded focus on unmarried characters, the movie industry conveys the idea that it's exciting to live on your own, but boring and stifling to live within a marriage. The unspoken assumption is that married people never experience anything that's interesting enough to be dramatized in a feature film. There are many sociological and psychological reasons that couples break up, but can anyone doubt that the popular culture's determined assault on the traditional family has contributed to the problem?

This brings us to the third front in the current culture wars, and perhaps the most crucial battlefield of all, and that is the attempt to undermine organized religion. A war against standards leads logically and inevitably to hostility to religion, because it is religious faith that provides the ultimate basis for all standards. The God of the Bible is not a moral

relativist, and He is definitely judgmental. The very nature of the Judeo-Christian God is a Lord who makes distinctions. To the extent that we as human beings feel that we are created in God's image, we make distinctions too, and we have standards.

That is a position that is honored by millions upon millions of our fellow citizens, but it is regularly ridiculed in the mass media. One of the national television networks has chosen to promote its most popular show with a scene that mocks a family saying grace. With the Simpsons solemnly gathered around their cartoon dinner table, Bart intones: "Dear God, we pay for all this stuff ourselves, so thanks for nothing."

Meanwhile, the federal government pays to display a crucifix immersed in a jar of the artist's own urine; and the nation's most prominent vocalist, Madonna, abuses Christian symbols and sacraments in sexually explicit music videos commonly viewed by children.

When I try to discuss some of these issues with working professionals in the entertainment industry, they usually offer the same response: "Nobody's forcing people to see these movies," they'll say. "If you object to the messages that you're getting from a piece of creative work, then you can exercise your right to avoid that film, or to switch

that channel on your TV set, or to turn your radio off. If something offends you, then it's easy to tune it out."

Unfortunately, they're wrong. Popular culture is an overwhelming and omnipresent force in this society; not even the most determined and conscientious efforts can effectively insulate you, or your children, from its powerful reach. The point is that you can say to yourself, "I'll just tune out the messages of the media," but it's not possible today. In the past, if you talked about popular culture, you meant going to a movie theater perhaps once a week and paying your money to see a single show. But modern technological advances have brought us boom boxes, and Walkmans, and VCRs, television and MTV. The messages, the images, are everywhere around us, and seep into every corner of our lives.

Is it a coincidence that the war on standards in art, music, television and film, corresponds with increasingly destructive behavior on the part of the young people who are the most devoted consumers of these media? Is there no connection between the media's obsession with crime and violence and the fact that the number of 14 to 17 year olds who were arrested in 1990 was 30 times what it was in 1950?

The rate of out-of-wedlock births in this country has increased by 500 percent since 1960, and 1 out of 10 of all teen-age girls will become pregnant in 1991. The Centers for Disease Control recently reported that more than a quarter of American females have engaged in sexual intercourse by age 15—five times the rate that prevailed as recently as 1970. How can media moguls plausibly maintain that these behavioral trends have nothing to do with the sex-drenched popular culture that plays such a central, all-consuming role in lives of so many young Americans?

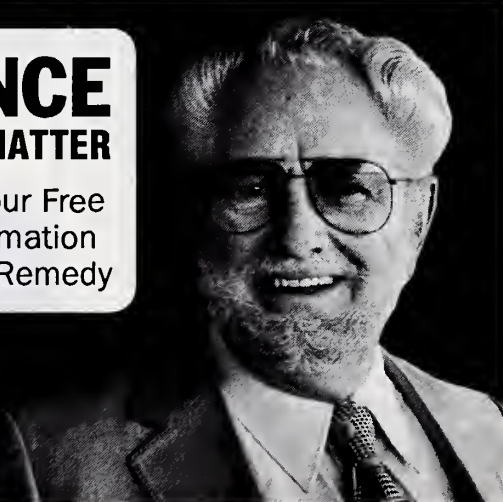
Ironically, the leaders of the entertainment industry downplay the significance of their own work, insisting that the fantasies they have created have no influence on anyone. The networks and the studios have commissioned studies from various experts to support their appallingly illogical contention that violence on screen has no connection to violence in real life, and intensely sexual material does nothing to encourage promiscuity.

This same industry then turns around and asks advertisers to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for 30 seconds of air time in the hope that this fleeting exposure will directly alter the public's buying behavior. Don't they grasp the internal contradiction here? On the one hand, we're told that an hour of televi-

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sion programming has no real world consequences whatsoever, and on the other we're led to believe 60-second spots that occasionally interrupt this program are powerful enough to change public perceptions of everything from canned goods to candidates.

The industry is right when it touts the impact of media images, but I can't accept the contention that motion pictures, and song lyrics, and music videos and TV shows are somehow less influential than commercials. That is why the current war on standards in the popular culture is such an important struggle for America's future. I believe that this will be the issue of the 1990s, the issue of values, of trying to maintain standards against those who are seeking to erase them altogether.

There's a tendency at both ends of the political spectrum to confuse this question with absolutist claims about the need for censorship versus the protection of the First Amendment. Expanded censorship is not the answer, and attempts to move in that direction will prove counter-productive.

The key issues in the current conflict won't be decided in the halls of Congress or the offices of the federal bureaucracy. They will be settled, as fundamental questions are always settled most effectively in America, through the application of free-market principles and displays of private-sector determination and resourcefulness.

Part of this process will no doubt involve sponsor boycotts, direct protests, letter-writing campaigns and other forms of organized pressure. These tolls are far more appropriate than new governmental regulation, which is at best, a blunt, sloppy and ineffective instrument. A group called CLEAR TV—Christian Leaders for Responsible Television—already has enjoyed some notable success. They recently pushed Burger King, one of the largest advertisers on network television, to take out a series of newspaper ads in which the company pledged its support for family values, and promised to apply those values in judging any future TV shows it will sponsor.

While environmentalists are employing all means available to persuade major corporations to stop polluting our air and water, we should use similar persuasion to prevent the further pollution of our culture. It's high time to broaden our sense of corporate responsibility to include a serious consideration of the long-term impact of the entertainment that a company may produce or sponsor.

As part of the continuing struggle, we must do more than protest the bad; we

should also begin promoting the good, and providing uplifting alternatives to the trash that currently dominates the scene. It's a sad fact that talented individuals with traditional convictions or religious scruples have too often shunned active involvement in show business because of that arena's longstanding reputation for sleaziness. Unfortunately, this means abandoning the field to the sickos and sybarites, and you see the results on your television and movie screens. Let the call go out immediately: The outnumbered good guys in Hollywood desperately need reinforcements.

Keep in mind that the entertainment industry is one area of endeavor in which a few gifted individuals can still make an enormous difference. The American people have shown that they are ready to respond when given the opportunity, as in the utterly unexpected \$100 million success of a wholesome, life-affirming film project like *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Even more recently, an unheralded, low-budget picture called *China Cry* demonstrated once again that good values can mean good box office. This off-beat production, funded by a determined group of evangelical Christians, may not be the greatest film ever made, but it's a heartfelt, passionate piece of

movie making about a young woman who undergoes a religious conversion while suffering persecution at the hands of the Chinese communists. Without well-known stars or any promotion budget to speak of, this audacious little picture has drawn an amazing response from the public, averaging more than \$6,000 per screening in its first weeks of release. This means that in multiplex theaters where it has played alongside big budget major studio productions, it has easily clobbered films such as *Rocky V* or *Goodfellas* or *Predator II*. We need more films like *China Cry*, but we'll only get them if concerned individuals are willing to roll up their sleeves to dirty their hands, and to get to work, outside the mainstream if necessary, to change the direction of popular culture.

The change, when it comes, will amount to nothing less than a grassroots revolution. It won't flow from the top down, but from the bottom up. If we place all our faith in a few bigwigs in Los Angeles, or New York, or Washington, nothing will happen. We must rely instead on a thousand different centers of energy and dedication, in every corner of these United States, to make sure that popular culture will once again reflect, and encourage, the fundamental goodness of our people. □

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HI-TECH

Continued from page 29

provide large blocks of electrical energy without concomitant damage to the environment. This will be the thrust that will eventually get us into a new era of nuclear energy.

Q. Is national defense suffering from inadequate research?

A. No, but I think it is very important to keep in mind that in the years ahead, as our funding on national defense almost certainly falls and international tensions are reduced, or apparently reduced, this is just the time when we must increase our spending on research, both fundamental and applied, to prevent our being blindsided. We must prevent our being surprised by totally new weapons technology that someone has developed while we were looking the other way.

Q. Will the environmental pollution

problems in our big cities come under control?

A. Well, that will happen if, as we reduce our dependence on liquid fuel for automotive use, in favor of electrical power, we go to nuclear sources for the electrical energy. If we use fossil fuels to generate the electricity to power our electric automobile, we have simply transferred the burning of fossil fuels from mobile sources to fixed source of greater size.

Q. What about the hope of separating hydrogen from sea water and using that as a clean and efficient energy source?

A. That is quite feasible now if you're prepared to put the required energy into it. We even have developed techniques now using recombinant DNA biological technique so that we have bacteria that under sunlight will separate the hydrogen from the oxygen in water molecules. But the problem that we face is not so much the difficulty of obtaining hydrogen, but that liquid hydrogen has much less energy than a comparable volume of gasoline. This means you need a much bulkier system to really utilize a hydrogen economy. And the public is not quite ready for that yet.

Q. What benefits do you see coming out of our super-computer development projects?

A. We have about eight super-computer centers that are federally supported, and these will make a totally qualitative difference in what we can do—not just quantitative. The new units are much faster and have much greater memory capacity. But the thing that they can do that nothing has been able to do before is to take large amounts of data, on any subject, and present that data in graphic form. The human brain is enormously efficient at extracting information from material that can be presented visually. We have now learned that 75 percent of the human brain's capacity is always occupied processing visual data. And so the human can extract patterns, can develop hypotheses in what often appears to be miraculous ways . . . once you can present the data graphically. That's important in the design of products. And it's terribly important in education.

Q. And in our remaining competitive with other nations?

A. Yes, which is why supercomputer development is one of the most important things we can do. And it's why the President has picked this as one

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of his three major research and development initiatives for the 1992 fiscal year.

Q. What are the other two?

A. The second one is education and human resources. And the third, which has boiled to the top of the political agenda worldwide, is the question of global climate change. Working with the Office of Management and Budget next year, we potentially will add two more to that list of presidential initiatives. One is biotechnology, because that promises to be as important in the future as physics and chemistry-based industry were in the postwar period. And the second is materials science and technology, because almost every process that we know is limited ultimately by the behavior of some material. For example, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory did a calculation for me that showed that for every degree Fahrenheit that you could raise the temperature of the average U.S. industrial process, your payback is \$2 billion per year.

Q. Speaking of education, U.S. students seem to be deserting the sciences in droves. What can be done to get them back into the fold?

A. The trend, I believe, is now turned around. What we are seeing is a reflection of the fact that as opposed to nearly all other careers, in science, mathematics and engineering, students make their career decisions during or before their junior year in high school. Most other career decisions are made much later. And so, if science has lost the students by the junior year in high school, we've lost them permanently. This focuses attention on the fact that our elementary schools are scandalously inept at the moment. We have a tremendous opportunity and a responsibility to correct that, and this is why the President's new education plan focuses primarily on doing something about our elementary schools

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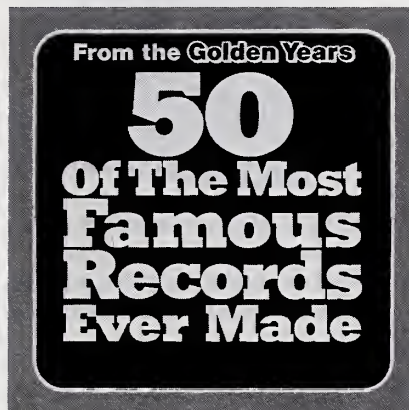
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MILITARY SPENDING

Continued from page 27

military budget buildup in American history; President Reagan accelerated that trend."

Even then, however, defense as a share of national outlays was nudged only marginally upwards—staying pretty much in the zone of the latter '70s and barely approaching the levels attained when Gerald Ford was in the White House. By 1985, the Pentagon had raised its share to 26.7 percent of the budget, slightly more than one-quarter of all spending, rather than slightly lower than one quarter, as with Carter.

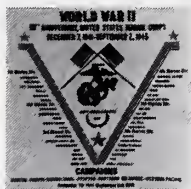
By 1990, this had fallen to less than 24 percent, and for 1992 it is projected at slightly more than 20. This relative share would be less than at any time in the '70s, and in fact the lowest point in modern history. Further shrinkage is projected under the budget caps adopted in October 1990.

A similar picture emerges if we look at defense in another way, as a fraction of gross national product (GNP). As the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reported early this year, "defense represents about 5.3 percent of GNP today, a relatively low ratio by the standards of the last three decades except during the immediate post-Vietnam era. It was 9.6 percent in 1961. With the caps, the defense share of GNP drifts down further, sinking to about 4.6 percent in 1993, a level not witnessed since 1948."

As CBO correctly comments, there is no particular share of the budget—or GNP—that is right or wrong as a percentage for defense. The point in real world terms is what is actually being bought with the dollars, and the nature of the problems with which the armed services have to deal. This could amount to 90 percent of national outlays under some conditions, such as World War II, or a low of 10 percent or less in others.

In assigning responsibility for the deficit, however, the share-of-budget issue is all-important. Obviously, what has been happening over the long pull is that we have proportionately transferred resources from defense to non-defense, and continue to do so. As a result, Pentagon outlays have fallen from half of national spending to one-quarter or less, and have continued to languish in that range both during and after the

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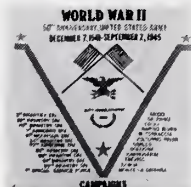
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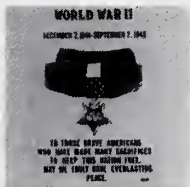
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Reagan era. If defense takes only one-quarter (or one-fifth) of the budget, then logically it can be responsible only for that proportion of the deficit.

These long-term trends are testimony to continued pressure for increasing domestic budgets. Since the 1960s, domestic spending has risen irrespective of military outlays. From 1960 to 1990, military spending adjusted for inflation increased by only 28 percent, but federal "payments to individuals" grew by an almost incredible 500 percent. Defense grew from \$192 billion to \$247 billion, measured in 1982 constant dollars, while federal "payments to individuals" grew from \$73 billion to \$429 billion.

"The overall spending totals [for the '80s] mask a critical policy development," said Stephen Moore of the Cato Institute, "that has occurred over the past several years, a dramatic shift in federal spending from defense to domestic programs. Most Americans believe that military spending has been climbing consistently since Reagan became President in 1981. The truth is that the Reagan defense buildup ended in 1986. Since 1989 the military budget has declined roughly 10 percent in real dollars."

ONE reason for false impressions on this score was the tremendous attention focused on Reagan's early proposals to reverse the long-term trend, proposals that were never realized in full. His plans for rapid military buildup and domestic spending cuts were widely publicized, but the press corps seldom followed up on what actually happened when the budgets were adopted. In fact, year after year, military spending fell short of Reagan's plans, while total budget figures soared a great deal higher.

Thus, in the first five Reagan budget years (1982-86), domestic outlays came in \$556 billion higher than Reagan's initial plan, while defense came in \$167 billion lower. And after '86, as noted, the effort at getting increased dollars for the Pentagon ground to a screeching halt. These numbers, however, were never reported by the major media. All the attention was focused on what Reagan requested, not the final budget.

One irony of this outcome was that military spending totals under Reagan were far closer to Jimmy Carter's proposals than they were to Reagan's. In fact, both in dollar amounts and as a percent of the budget, Pentagon spending under Reagan was actually less than the final five-year scenario proposed by Carter. These differences are shown in Table II:

Table II: Carter v. Reagan

Year	Carter Proposal	Reagan Plan	Actual
1981	161.0	162.0	157.5
1982	184.4	188.8	185.3
1983	210.4	226.0	209.9
1984	237.8	255.6	227.4
1985	268.0	303.9	252.7

Source: Office of Management and Budget (Expressed in billions of dollars)

By 1986, the Carter policy would have hiked defense to \$299 billion, amounting to 27.8 percent of the total budget. Reagan wanted to raise the ante even further—to \$343 billion and 36.8 percent—more than one-third of total outlays. The actual numbers under Reagan, however, were a more modest \$273 billion and 26.8 percent—both lower than the Carter trend line. That Reagan's outlays fell considerably short of Carter's proposals seems known to practically no one.

Of course, even a relative shift of a couple of percent in a growing federal budget amounts to tens of billions of dollars, so in this sense there was indeed a "Reagan buildup" for the military. And a good thing that there was. While much of the added spending went for modernization of our strategic triad arrayed against the Soviets, a lot of it also went for procurement and upgrading of conventional and theater weapons


—the type employed against Iraq.

How we might have fared in the gulf if there hadn't been at least a partial interruption of the long-term downward curve of Pentagon spending is a disturbing thought.

Current estimates are that we incurred a cost of \$70 billion in the fighting, a good deal of it for equipment and munitions added to the weapons stock in the preceding decade. Absent such effort, the quantity and quality of our military force would have been substantially degraded.

In the period 1980-85, when most of the Reagan buildup was accomplished, military procurement levels almost exactly doubled, increasing by 99.4 percent. As noted by former Assistant Secretary of Defense Lawrence Korb, "By the middle of the decade, U.S. military expenditures exceeded those of the Soviet Union for the first time since the

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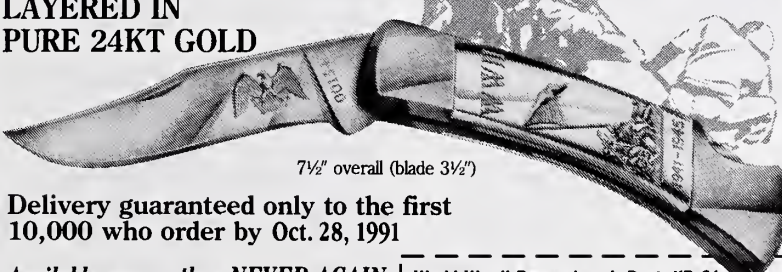
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MILITARY SPENDING

Continued from page 57

late 1960s... In his first six years in office, Reagan purchased nearly 3,000 combat aircraft, 3,700 strategic missiles, and about 10,000 tanks."

In these and other categories, the procurement numbers greatly exceeded those prevailing in the '70s. Korb notes that, from 1974 to 1980, the United

States acquired 4,898 heavy tanks and 975 new military helicopters. From 1981 to 1987, in keeping with the spending trend, procurement numbers were almost doubled (9,747 and 1,748, respectively). To which it should be added that the later acquisitions (Abrams tanks, Apache helicopters, etc.) were much more sophisticated than their predecessors.

The development and acquisition of such weapons were fertile sources of the cost-overrun and expensive-toy stories that have been so popular in the media. Frank Gaffney of the Center for Security

Policy observes, "Virtually every U.S. weapons system employed in the gulf—from the M1A1 main battle tank to the Bradley infantry fighting vehicle to the Apache attack helicopter to the Patriot missile... has been at one point or another the subject of controversy, vituperative criticism and nearly fatal legislative attack."

The gulf experience helps put such controversy in perspective. In fact, we now have disputes about who ought to get the credit for such weapons, because many systems were on the drawing boards in the '70s. Obviously, in the process of developing new systems, mistakes, corrections and further attempts to get it right are of the essence. This doesn't mean the Pentagon development and procurement system should be exempt from scrutiny; it does mean that easy-to-sensationalize cost-overrun stories should be viewed in context.

THE flipside of this observation is that, should similar crises arise in the future, we will be hard pressed to match our performance in the gulf. We battled Iraq after a decade of stepped-up defense procurement, but no such decade is in prospect now. Quite the contrary. Pentagon spending today is shrinking not only as a share of the budget but also in terms of purchasing power, and both these trends are scheduled to continue. Under last fall's budget agreement, all savings currently projected in federal discretionary spending are targeted on defense, as domestic outlays keep increasing.

Measured in constant '82 dollars, defense outlays were \$244 billion in '86, are estimated at \$236 billion in '91, and are scheduled to fall to \$196 billion in '95—essentially what they were in 1960. As for last year's budget package, CBO observes: "The \$46 billion in enacted savings from discretionary programs comprise a *reduction* of \$91 billion in defense outlays and a \$45 billion *increase* in non-defense discretionary spending. An additional \$144 billion in discretionary spending reductions, *mostly in national defense*, remains to be made over the 1992-95 period." [Italics added.]

Given the divergent paths of our defense and foreign policies, American officials at some point in the future will likely find themselves at a fateful crossroads. We have assumed the mantle of military leadership in a "new world order," but we keep reducing our commitment to defense. If the downward spiral of Pentagon outlays continues, we could have a difficult time delivering on our commitments. ☐

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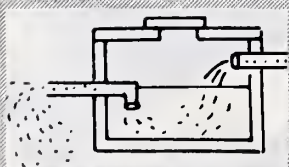
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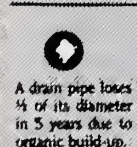
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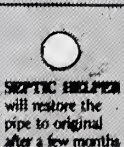


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BEYOND AND BACK

Continued from page 25

NDE is explained by the birth canal and the bright light by the operating room. This theory requires relying on assumptions that few are prepared to make. Noted scientist Dr. Carl Sagan concedes that the birth-NDE theory has its adherents, but he also said the theory invites skepticism.

What becomes clear from all of this is the inescapable conclusion that a near-death experience is a very real phenomenon. It cannot be dismissed as fraud, mass hysteria or religious ecstasy. And now, with the ever-increasing sophistication of medical tools and techniques, there is every likelihood that the number of NDEs will grow at an accelerating pace.

Is it a neurological response to trauma? Is it a natural hallucination? Is it a protective psychological mechanism enabling people to cope with major injury? Is it a glimpse of life after death? There are supporters for each of these explanations. Perhaps the indisputable answer will come to each of us individually only when we come face to face with the ultimate consequence of our mortality.

Woody Allen has said, "It's not that I'm afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens." Take heart, Woody. You just may get your wish in an as-yet-inexplicable way. ☐

GRADE CARD

Continued from page 14

less fortunate. But the CPR statistics, however impressive, only tell part of the story. Nearly half of the Post Commanders don't file reports; consequently, almost half of our volunteer workers do not get the credit they deserve. Fortunately, the level of reporting is sufficient to shine a national spotlight on Legion programs and initiatives.

Post Commanders are urged to turn

in CPRs to their Departments by June 15 each year. The final date to submit the reports to National Headquarters for inclusion in the annual tabulation prepared for the national convention is July 1. Post Commanders also are urged to include under separate cover a written summary of special activities or promotions their Posts pursued in meeting the needs of area veterans and the community.

No matter how many CPRs are submitted, the record of accomplishment is there for anyone who wishes to see how the Legion works in thousands of communities to maintain its tradition of devotion to "mutual helpfulness." ☐

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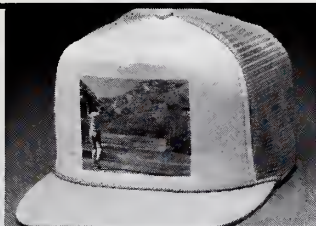
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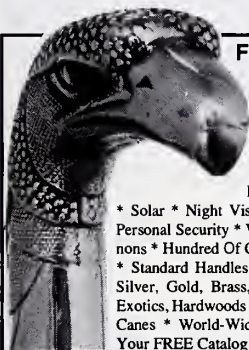
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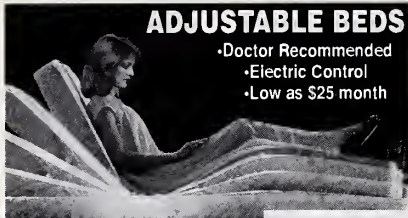
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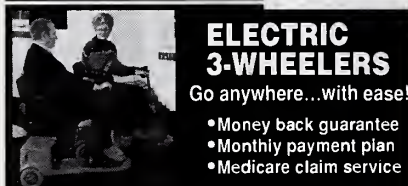
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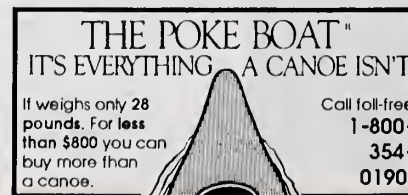
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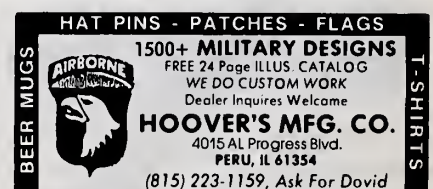
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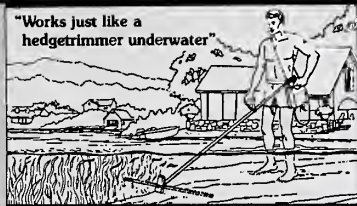
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"What a day. The computers broke down and we had to think."

Buck Stop

These days, more and more politicians pass the buck, but they hold on to the tens and twenties.

Law Unabiding

Ignorance of the law is no excuse, but some lawyers practice anyway.

Practical Prayer

Lead us not into temptation. Just let us know where temptation is, and we'll find it ourselves.

Bard Of Executives

"Our meetings remind me of the works of Shakespeare," said one employee to another.

"How's that?"

"They're usually *Much Ado About Nothing* and result in a *Comedy of Errors*."

Who's There?

When opportunity knocks, you still have to get up off your butt and answer the door.

No Know

"I don't mind my children knowing more than I did at their age," said one befuddled parent to another. "But I do resent them knowing more than I do now."

Computer Interfacing

Is it just a coincidence? Computer dating started just a few years back, and now these tiny laptops are springing up all over the place.

Spellin' Norman

"I feel sorry for the history students of tomorrow," said one high school student to another. "I mean, how would you like to have to spell Schwarzkopf?"

Legal-Easy

Why is it that when you need a lawyer, you always can find one?

Language Barrier

To be an effective parent of teenagers, you have to know two languages—yours and theirs.

Sheik Sale

During a tour of America, a wealthy Arab sheik stopped his entourage by a roadside stand to buy an apple. The farmer told him the apple would cost \$50. "Apples must be very scarce," said the sheik.

"We got loads of apples," said the farmer. "Sheiks are scarce."

Sappy Medium

Television is a medium because it is neither rare nor well done.

Green Fees

"I can't resist buying new golf equipment," one golfer said to his buddy. "Every time I walk into a pro shop, my money burns 18 holes in my pocket."

Toothpaste Account

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SOUND OFF

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Some of the opinions recorded on Vetvoice lines are published in THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE and are indicated with the **V** symbol.

Here's how you've voted in previous polls:

Do you believe VA has the resources to serve as a medical backup for DoD?

Yes 17% No 83%

Should welfare recipients be required to work?

Yes 85% No 15%

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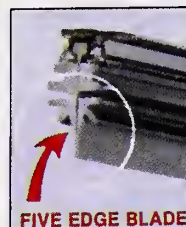
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